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**Guardian Angels  
watch over  
Tokyo's streets**

Scene

Guardian Angel Mauricio Hideo Missaki



**Yokota football  
wins 6th straight  
JFL, Kanto titles**

Page 44



**Fall backward**

**Don't forget:  
Clocks move back  
in U.S. on Sunday**

Volume 63, No. 197 © EPSS 2004 J

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2004

中国标准时间 11月1日 00:00 日本标准时间 11月1日 01:00 美国标准时间 10月31日 23:00 美国夏令时间 11月1日 02:00

\$1.00

# New drug-test policy targets young airmen

AF program means more screenings for E-1 to E-4, O-1 to O-2 Page 3



WARREN A. COMER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Airman 1st Class Peter Beasley, of the 36th Airlift Squadron, 374th Airlift Wing, works with members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force to unload supplies of plastic sheeting Friday from a C-130 at Niigata Airport. The aircraft, from Yokota Air Base, made two trips Friday to the earthquake-stricken region to drop off emergency supplies donated by Yokota and Misawa Air Base as well as by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and cities surrounding Yokota.

## Help from a friend

Misawa,  
Yokota airlift  
earthquake aid  
to Niigata

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## Scene on Sunday

Thailand  
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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Rosa Parks guardian:** A federal judge again refused to reconsider the appointment of former Mayor Dennis Archer as guardian for 91-year-old civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks.

U.S. District Judge George Steeh appointed Archer earlier this month to protect Parks' interests in two civil lawsuits. Parks' doctors have told a federal magistrate that she is in poor health and suffers from dementia.

Parks sued the rap group OutKast in 1999, claiming they wrongly used her name in the title of a song. A second lawsuit filed in August seeks more than \$5 billion from the group's record companies and two major booksellers.

**Church sexual abuse:** A California judge ordered the employment records of Roman Catholic priests accused of sexual abuse in dozens of civil cases be kept confidential — an apparent reversal from an earlier recommendation that they be made public.

The records could reveal what actions dioceses took against priests accused of sexual molestation.

Attorneys for the church argued priests' personnel records, as well as personal information related to the alleged victims, should remain confidential during the discovery phase of the various sex-abuse civil cases.

**NAACP tax status:** The Internal Revenue Service has threatened to revoke the NAACP's tax-exempt status because the group's chairman, Julian Bond, "condemned the administration policies of George W. Bush" during a speech this summer, according to documents the civil rights group provided Thursday.

The NAACP, which is based in Baltimore and is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, is incorporated under a tax-code section that prohibits participation in a political campaign.

**Harris assault:** A man charged with assault for allegedly aiming his car at Florida Rep. Katherine Harris and supporters while they were campaigning was ordered held Thursday on \$500,000 bail.

Barry M. Seltzer, 46, faces one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and could face a federal charge in connection with the Tuesday incident.

Seltzer told police he was exercising "political expression" when he aimed his car at Harris and campaign supporters as they stood at a busy intersection. He swerved onto the sidewalk; no one was hurt.

**Mailbox bombings case:** A Minnesota man accused in a Midwestern mailbox bombing spree is mentally ill and should be committed, a federal magistrate judge ruled Thursday.

Lucas Helder, 23, already had been declared incompetent to stand trial on charges that he planted pipe bombs and anti-government notes in rural mailboxes in Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Colorado and Texas in May 2002.

Four bombs exploded, injuring four postal workers and two Iowa women. The nationwide manhunt that followed ended with Helder's arrest outside Reno, Nev. U.S. Magistrate Judge Franklin Noel said he was convinced by expert testimony that Helder, who is in jail, might do more bombings given the chance.

**Swift Boat investigation:** A federal employee union is calling for an investigation into why the Waco Veterans Affairs Regional Office held a training session led by a former President Bush campaign political volunteer linked to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth.

The American Federation of Government Employees, which has endorsed Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, says retired Air Force Col. Ken Cordier's appearance violated a law that bans political activities at federal workplaces.

Several Waco VA employees said that before the training session last month, their boss told them Cordier would not discuss politics, said the union's attorney, Mark Roth. But after his presentation on POW issues, Cordier made disparaging remarks about Democrats that made employees of both political parties feel uncomfortable, Roth said.

**McGreevey aide interviewed:** More than two months after Gov. James E. McGreevey said he would resign in the wake of an extramarital gay affair, federal investigators have interviewed the former aide who the affair with had been the man he had the affair with.

Two FBI agents interviewed Golan Cipel in his native Israel "at length" on Wednesday, FBI spokesman Steve Kodak said Thursday.

Kodak said he could not comment on the content of the interview.

**Hacking pleads not guilty:** Mark Hacking pleaded not guilty Friday to first-degree murder in the death of his wife, whose remains were found in a landfill weeks after her disappearance.

The judge set Hacking's trial for April 18. Prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty.

Authorities believe Lori Hacking, 27, was killed July 19 after learning her husband wasn't enrolled in medical school in North Carolina, though they were arranging to move there. It was among a series of deceptions Mark Hacking had perpetrated over several years, police say.

Hacking's defense attorney has indicated he would take the case to trial and challenge Hacking's confession to his brothers that he shot his wife while she slept and disposed of her remains, the weapon and a mattress in the trash.

## World

**Pitcairn Island rapes:** The mayor of Pitcairn Island was sentenced to three years imprisonment for rapes of young women on the remote and isolated home of descendants of the HMS Bounty mutineers, British authorities in New Zealand said Friday.

Steve Christian, who claims to be a direct descendant of Bounty mutiny leader Fletcher Christian, and five other men from the island were convicted Monday of a string of rapes and sex attacks dating back 40 years. Christian was convicted of five rapes.

**Ukraine election:** In a sharp statement of dismay over abuses and official interference ahead of Sunday's presidential election, U.S. officials say Ukraine could face unspecified punitive measures if the vote is not free and fair.

"If the election fails to meet international standards, a variety of measures to hold officials responsible for electoral misconduct accountable will be considered," the U.S. mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said in a statement released late Thursday.

**Japan earthquake:** The death toll attributed to a series of powerful earthquakes in northern Japan over the past week rose to 36 on Friday, after a 43-year-old woman who had been camping in her car died from a blood clot, police said.

A 6.8-magnitude earthquake last Saturday injured more than 2,000 people and left some 100,000 living in temporary public shelters unable to return home. Thousands more have been camping out in tents and cars, afraid that aftershocks could set off landslides or cause already-damaged buildings to collapse.

Stories and photos from wire reports

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# Young airmen face increased drug testing

## Random selection aims to screen each junior-ranking troop at least once a year

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

**MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan** — The Air Force's youngest members will be required to submit to a random drug urinalysis more often as part of a new policy aimed at reducing illegal drug use among junior enlisted and officer ranks.

The Air Force began its "Smart Testing" program Oct. 1 at three major commands and will implement it Air Force-wide in November. Pacific Air Forces was to roll out the program Monday.

The new policy means that airmen basic through senior airmen and first and second lieutenants likely will have to submit to a random drug test at least once a year — if not more, officials said.

The young troops will be screened more often since statistics show that ranks E-1 to E-4 and O-1 and O-2 — generally airmen 18 to 25 years old — are four times more likely to test positive for illegal drugs than their older counterparts, Air Force officials maintain.

Though across the Air Force the rate of those testing positive for illegal drugs dropped from 0.52 percent in fiscal 2002 to 0.41 percent in fiscal 2003, the service, officials say, is concerned that a majority of identified users are young airmen.

In PACAF, 77 percent of airmen who failed a drug test in fiscal 2003 fell into the junior ranks singled out in the new drug-screening policy, according to Lt. Col. Henry Cashen, chief of behavioral health services, PACAF surgeon general.

"We are not targeting people in junior pay grades, we are targeting those who use illicit drugs," he stated. "The program change will help deter drug use among young airmen. It will keep them from making poor choices and, if they decide to use drugs, they will get caught."

Cashen answered questions from Stars and Stripes in writing.

The rest of the service will continue to be tested at a rate of 65 percent per person per year, Cashen said.

"The computerized selection

program will be changed beginning in November to randomly select members in the junior ranks at a rate of one test, per member, per year, increasing their chances of random selection," Cashen wrote.

Airmen in the targeted ranks will have a higher probability of selection, though officials can't say for sure how often because of the program's random nature.

"The strength of this program is the randomization," Cashen said. "There is no credit given for being selected on a given day; an airman's chance of being selected is the same each time the computer program runs, regardless of their personal history of having been selected. Thus, in a given year, some airmen will be selected multiple times; some may not be selected at all."

A Drug Demand Reduction Program manager — a government civilian employee assigned to the medical group — runs the Air Force drug testing program at bases. Each installation has a designated testing site; Air Force guidance mandates a minimum of eight testing days per month.

In PACAF, the new program will raise the command's overall testing quota by 23 percent, Cashen said, creating a nominal cost increase for supplies and shipping.

"The larger impact will be on manpower," he said, since the drug testing program uses airmen detailed from base units to serve as observers. "We can expect our observers to spend additional time away from their normal duties to support this increase in quota," Cashen wrote.

Cashen also stated that the Air Force's drug-reduction program is restricted to urinalysis screening only. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations and security forces may elect to use other means for detecting drugs, such as hair or blood samples, he noted.

Junior rank airmen at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan, Yokota Air Base near Tokyo and Okinawa's Kadena Air Base reacted positively Friday to the new program, even though they're being singled out for more tests.

Senior Airman Andrew Bonjour, 22, a maintenance crew chief with Misawa's 35th Mainte-

nance Squadron, said the younger troops are more susceptible to drug use since they're more likely to bow to peer pressure.

"I do think it is a deterrence because nobody wants to pop up on a drug screening, especially if they want to make the military a career," he said.

Bonjour's co-worker, Senior Airman Jeff Parker, 20, said "It should come with the territory. You shouldn't be doing drugs anyway."

Senior Airman Philip Farnstrom of the 374th Maintenance Squadron at Yokota Air Base hadn't heard about the policy change but considers it a positive development.

"It wouldn't bother me at all," he said Friday. "I think it'll clear out some less-than-desirable people in the work force."

"It's a good measure. I don't want to work next to someone whose priorities aren't focused on the job because they're thinking more about what they want to do tomorrow. The workplace suffers and others have to pick up the slack."

SEE TESTING, ON PAGE 4

# Yokota, Misawa send aid to quake victims

BY VINCE LITTLE  
Stars and Stripes

**NIIGATA PREFECTURE, Japan** — A Yokota Air Base C-130 crew delivered a pair of disaster-relief packages to this earthquake-ravaged region Friday, dropping off pallets loaded with plastic sheeting, portable toilets and undergarments in separate airlifts.

While the U.S. military offered other items, such as blankets and tents, the Japanese government's initial request to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo called for plastic sheeting only. Yokota and Misawa Air Base responded with more than 10,000 pounds of the protective material collected from available stock.

"They can use it to make tents and temporarily repair homes that have been damaged," said Marine Sgt. Jeffrey Goudin, a logistics representative from Headquarters, U.S. Forces Japan, who verified receipt of the emergency supplies with Japan Self-Defense Force personnel handling distribution of relief supplies in the prefecture.

"There's a very good possibility we'll have more aircraft to follow. The United States government will provide more support as needed. Right now, we're awaiting a response from the Japanese government to see what else they need. The U.S. government has been very proactive from the beginning to see what kind of assistance they need."

In a news release issued Friday evening, USFJ officials said no other requests have been made, but additional airlifts could be arranged if needed.

Niigata Prefecture, a rural, mountainous area nestled along the Sea of Japan coastline, has been rocked by a series of devastating earthquakes and continuous aftershocks that began Oct. 23. The death toll sits at 36, with about 100,000 still homeless. Exposure risks had become a concern because of increasingly colder temperatures in the region.

After hauling the plastic sheeting to Niigata Airport earlier in the day, the C-130 crew returned to Yokota, where it was reloaded with about 4,700 pounds of relief supplies donated by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The cities of Tachikawa, Akishima, Fussa, Musashimurayama, Hamura and Mizuho Town — which surround Yokota — clipped in an extra 2,500 pounds.

The entire batch, which arrived in Niigata on Friday afternoon, included portable toilets, undergarments, toilet paper and diapers.

"Today's successful airlift relief missions are a great example of the outstanding relationship we have with the Japan Self-Defense Forces, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and each of our neighboring communities," Col. Douglas Kreulen, the 374th Airlift Wing vice commander, said in the news release.



WARREN A. CONNOR/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force drive a forklift loaded with emergency supplies that were delivered Friday by a C-130 at Niigata Airport. The aircraft, from Yokota Air Base, made two trips Friday to the earthquake-stricken region to drop off emergency supplies donated by Yokota and Misawa Air Base as well as by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and cities surrounding Yokota.**

Capt. Eric Dopsfals, a navigator with the 36th Airlift Squadron who was part Friday's effort, said the mission certainly strayed from the C-130 crew's regular flight plan.

"This is more rewarding, and it's what we train for — helping the people of Japan," he said. "We're ambassadors for our country. It's truly an honor to help these folks out."

SEE RELIEF, ON PAGE 4

## Orient Shield exercise

U.S. Army Japan and the Northeastern Army of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force will take part in Orient Shield Nov. 2-13 at the Iwatayama Training Area in Iwate Prefecture, Japan, according to a U.S. Army Japan news release.

The annual bilateral field training exercise, officials said, is designed to illustrate the commitment within the U.S.-Japan alliance, officials said. It's conducted to enhance combat readiness and cooperation between the United States and JGSDF in the face of regional threats or contingencies in areas surrounding Japan.

The 1-141st Infantry Battalion, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard and the 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division, Northeastern Army will participate in the 12-day exercise, the release stated.

Maj. Gen. Elbert N. Perkins, the U.S. Army Japan commander, and Lt. Gen. Makoto Hirose, who heads the JGSDF's 9th Division, will direct this year's Orient Shield.

## Trip offered to ball game

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota's Information Tickets & Travel Office is offering a one-day trip to the Tokyo Dome on Nov. 6 for the All-Star game between players from Major League Baseball and their Japanese counterparts.

The \$50 cost includes a game ticket and roundtrip transportation. The tour leaves Yokota at 0800 p.m.

Roger Clements, Moises Alou, Miguel Tejada, David Ortiz and Hank Blalock are among the major league stars scheduled to be part of the biennial tour.

To sign up for the tour, stop by Yokota ITTT in the Tokyo Recreation Center. For more information, call DSN 227-7083/7084.

From staff reports

## Relief: Effort strengthens U.S., Japan relationship

FROM RELIEF, ON PAGE 3

Capt. Michael Yi, airlift director for the 374th Operations Support Squadron, and another crew member said Friday that two trips were highly unique.

"It felt really good to do this," he said. "Instead of flying around the flagpole, as we usually do in training, we're doing a mission that [Pacific Air Forces] has deemed for us. The Japanese people are great, and to give back something to their community in Niigata provides us with a good sense of accomplishment."

"This also shows the Japanese government that even though we're busy in other places like Iraq, we're still committed here as well. It's a great sign of our friendship."

Mechanical problems Thursday with a different C-130 aircraft delayed the shipment by a day, but that didn't diminish the humanitarian mission's importance, said 1st Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman at Yokota.

"Right now, we're just happy to support what we've been requested," he said. "This is stuff we had available, supplies we could fill. We're more than happy to do it. It's symbolic of the cooperation between the Japanese government and the United States."

Capt. Kazumi Hayashi, a Japan Ground Self-Defense Force liaison officer who's in charge of supplies carried by Japan Air Self-Defense Force aircraft at Niigata Airport, said Friday's exchange marked his first encounter with the American military.

"We really appreciate the help from the U.S. military," he said. "We're very happy that Americans in Japan cooperate in the aid effort for victims. It's very important that we all help out."

E-mail Vince Little at: [little@stripes.com](mailto:little@stripes.com)

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## Testing: Air Force steps up drug tests of junior ranks

FROM TESTING, PAGE 3

Airman 1st Class Erica Hawks of the 374th Airlift Wing's command post also was unaware of the impending policy shift but said an expansion of random drug testing could be necessary.

"It seems like there have been a lot of people in trouble recently," she added. "If that's what needs to be done to keep it down, it's fine with me. I don't think it would've been brought up if there wasn't a problem."

"I've been called before to do the test. If you've got to do it, you've got to do it. It's part of military life. I'm not causing the problem, so it doesn't bother me any."

Airman Kimberly Drummond with 18th Services Squadron at Kadena said individuals known there are not supposed to be using drugs when they join the service.

"The people who take drugs

**"We don't need a bunch of people running around doing drugs — they know they can't do them."**

**Senior Airman Christopher Ramey**

18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa

and get away with it don't deserve to be in," she said, adding that if junior enlisted folks are more likely to use drugs, then they should be tested more often.

Also at Kadena, Senior Airman Christopher Ramey, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, said he has no problem with certain ranks being targeted.

"I think it's perfectly fair," he said. "We don't need a bunch of people running around doing drugs — they know they can't do them. Let's find them and get them out so we can get some good people in."

In PACAF in fiscal 2003, 60 airman tested positive for an illegal substance out of 28,817 urinalysis tests, according to figures provided by PACAF. Of those, 46 — or 77 percent — fell within the targeted junior ranks. Cashen noted that of the 60 airman nabbed for drug use, only 13 were identified through random testing. The others were detected through commander-directed testing, probable-cause testing or unit sweep testing, which also rely on urinalysis screening. PACAF officials said that installation commanders are encouraged to continue

these tough measures, along with dorm sweeps, random gate checks and education and prevention programs.

Marijuana historically is the most commonly used drug in PACAF, officials said. Drugs that showed up in fiscal 2003 tests with a positive result broke down as follows: 45 for marijuana, six cocaine, five codeine, three amphetamines and one morphine.

Bonjour, at Misawa, said a urinalysis takes a mere five to 10 minutes to complete.

Though he doesn't consider it much of an inconvenience, he expects the new policy will mean more visits to Misawa's drug-testing center for him, since he believes it's been more than a year since the computer picked his name.

"I think I'm due," he said.

Vince Little and Fred Zimmerman contributed to this story.

E-mail Jennifer H. Swan at: [swan@stripes.com](mailto:swan@stripes.com)

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# Bin Laden admits 9/11 responsibility on tape

By Maggie Michael

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Osama bin Laden, injecting himself into the campaign four days ahead of presidential elections, said in a videotape aired Friday that the United States can avoid another Sept. 11 attack if it stops threatening the security of Muslims.

In the segment broadcast, the al-Qaida leader refrained from directly threatening new attacks, although he said "there are still reasons to repeat what happened."

"Your security is not in the hands of (Democratic presidential nominee John) Kerry, (U.S. President George W.) Bush or al-Qaida. Your security is in your own hands," bin Laden said. "Any state that does not mess with our security, has naturally guaranteed its own security."

Admitting for the first time that he ordered the Sept. 11 attacks, bin Laden said he did so because of injustices against the Lebanese and Palestinians by Israel and the United States.

"To the American people, my talk is to you about the best way to avoid another Manhattan," he said. "I tell you: Security is an important element of human life and free people do not give up their security."



bin Laden

It was the first footage in more than a year of the fugitive al-Qaida leader, thought to be hiding in the mountains along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The Bush administration said Friday it believes the videotape was authentic and had been made recently. Bush said Friday that "Americans will not be intimidated" by bin Laden.

A U.S. official in Washington said the entire tape was 18 minutes, lacked an explicit threat and repeated well-worn themes.

Al-Jazeera broadcast about seven minutes

of the tape. The station's spokesman, Jihad Ali Ballout, said they aired what was "news-worthy and relevant" and refused to describe the unaired portions, including whether they included any threats.

In Florida, Kerry said all Americans are united against bin Laden, adding he would "stop at absolutely nothing to hunt down, capture or kill the terrorists wherever they are, whatever it takes, period."

Bin Laden accused President Bush of misleading Americans by saying the attack was carried out because al-Qaida "hates freedom." Bin Laden said his followers have left alone countries that do not threaten Muslims. "We fought you because we are free — and want to regain freedom for our nation. As you undermine our security we undermine yours," he said.

He said he was first inspired to attack the United States by the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon in which towers and buildings in Beirut were destroyed in the siege of the capital. "While I was looking at these destroyed towers in Lebanon, it sparked in my mind

that the tyrant should be punished with the same and that we should destroy towers in America, so that it tastes what we taste and would be deterred from killing our children and women," he said.

In planning the attacks, bin Laden said he told Mohammed Atta, one of the hijackers, that the strikes had to be carried out "within 20 minutes before Bush and his administration noticed."

Instead, bin Laden said, his operatives had three times that period.

Montasser al-Zayat, a Cairo lawyer who defends Islamic radicals, said the video amounted to an "unprecedented attack on Bush at a very critical time, before the U.S. elections," and also served as proof bin Laden was alive and at large.

Diaa Rashwan, a Cairo-based expert on extremist Muslim militants, said bin Laden was trying to influence Americans "to give Kerry their votes, not Bush." If that was bin Laden's intention, the ploy could backfire. Kerry, whom Bush has attempted to paint as soft on terrorism, is unlikely to benefit from what appears to be praise from bin Laden.



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## British troops arrive to free up Americans

By MARIAM FAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. forces are gearing up for a major operation against the insurgent stronghold Fallujah, a U.S. general said Friday, as hundreds of British troops reached a base near Baghdad to free American forces to join any assault.

"We're gearing up to do an operation and when we're told to go, we'll go," Brig. Gen. Dennis Hejlik, deputy commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said at a camp near Fallujah. "When we do go, we'll whack them."

Hejlik's comments confirmed that plans are under way for a major assault on insurgent strongholds west of Baghdad in an effort to end the wave of car bombings, kidnappings and attacks that has escalated since Fallujah fell under guerrilla control last spring.

U.S. officials have given no indication of the timing of a major attack, which still await final orders

from Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. However, in a sign that the assault may be imminent, the first wave of troops from the Black Watch regiment has arrived at the base near Baghdad, the Defense Ministry in London reported.

The rest of the 850-strong battle group from the Black Watch regiment was to arrive over the weekend, the ministry said without specifying how many were in each wave. The base is located 20 miles west of Mahdoudia, a town that has seen frequent insurgent attacks south of Baghdad, according to the report.

The Americans asked for the deployment in order to free up American forces for a new assault on Sunni insurgents who have taken control of Fallujah and a number of towns north and west of Baghdad.

Clashes were reported Friday on the northeast edge of Fallujah and in Ramadi — an almost daily occurrence as the showdown with the insurgents looms.

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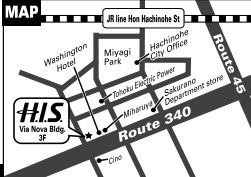
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# Federal judge dismisses divorcees' suit

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by 58 divorced servicemembers and retirees challenging the constitutionality of the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act. The 1982 law allows state courts to divide military retirement as property in divorce settlements.

U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris in Alexandria, Va., granted government motions Oct. 12 to dismiss Adkins, et al. v. Rumsfeld and all claims brought by individual plaintiffs and by USLS, a nonprofit support group established to raise legal fees for the court challenge.

## MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

Lawyers for the divorced servicemembers and retirees have filed a motion for reconsideration. They also announced plans to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va.

In its motion to Cacheris to reconsider, USLS argues that some legal flaws of the USFSPA aren't "ripe" to be challenged in state

courts at time of divorce because the harmful effects don't occur until servicemembers retire.

## Stop-loss suit

A different team of lawyers, in San Francisco, has switched plaintiffs in their legal challenge to Army stop-loss orders that keep thousands of soldiers on active duty to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"John Doe," an unnamed National Guardsman in California, dismissed his lawsuit against the Army after he was released from active duty this month. One of his lawyers, Joshua Sondheimer, said

Guard policy requires that soldiers who do not deploy be relieved of the stop-loss order 90 days after the unit is alerted for mobilization.

Now a second California Guardsman, "John Doe II," has filed a lawsuit against Army stop loss. Like Doe I, the veterans enlisted in the Guard for just one year under the "Try One" program. His enlistment was to expire next April, but last month he received mobilization orders for Iraq and an extra year of service.

## Suicide prevention

Forty-eight servicemembers

have taken their own lives while deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait since 9/11, and another 31 veterans of those wars have committed suicide stateside, according to statistics released at the third annual Military Suicide Prevention Conference, in Arlington, Va., in late October.

Experts point to the high stress of long, dangerous deployments, combined with "triggering" factors such as a failing relationship and financial or legal problems. Another factor, in theater, is ready access to weapons.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111. e-mail: milupdate@aol.com or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com)

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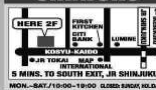
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## FBI expands probe of Halliburton Co.

BY LARRY MARGASAK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI is investigating whether U.S. officials improperly awarded Vice President Dick Cheney's former company lucrative contract work without competition, a probe that was confirmed only days after a top Army contract officer raised the issue of favoritism.

The investigation expands an existing probe of whether Halliburton Co. overcharged for fuel deliveries in Iraq. The probe now includes the no-bid work awarded the company in Iraq, including restoration of the country's oil industry at a cost of \$2.5 billion.

The expanded investigation is converging with statements made last weekend by Bunnatine Greenhouse, the chief contracting officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The FBI has requested an interview with Greenhouse, who said her agency unfairly awarded KBR, a Halliburton subsidiary, the Iraq work.

Cheney headed Halliburton, a Houston-based oil services conglomerate, prior to running for vice president four years ago.

He has consistently denied any involvement in the contracts. His spokesman, Kevin Kellems, said in response to a question that neither Cheney nor his aides have been contacted by investigators.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the investigation does not involve anyone in the White House, including Cheney's office.

The FBI investigation, confirmed by several government sources who insisted on anonymity, raised the profile of a key Democratic attack issue in the final days of the presidential campaign.

"Good people came forward to tell the truth about these contracts because they — like the American people — know that the administration's special treatment of Halliburton was wrong," vice presidential candidate John Edwards said in a statement Thursday night.

Greenhouse's lawyers said Thursday their client will cooperate but that she wants whistle-blower protection from Pentagon retaliation.

## 2 SEALs face court-martial

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Two Navy SEALs will face court-martial proceedings for allegedly assaulting a detainee who died at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, the Navy said Wednesday.

The two commandos from a Coronado-based Sea, Air, Land unit known as SEAL Team-7 also are accused of posing in photographs taken while the detainee was subjected to degrading treatment, according to court documents.

Neither of the two SEALs is charged with killing the prisoner.

Article 32 hearings are set for Thursday and Friday at Naval Base San Diego for the two enlisted SEALs. The charges against them include aggravated assault, maltreatment, dereliction of duty and disobeying orders.

The Navy withheld the names

of the two and identified them only as an aviation boatswain's mate and a hospital corpsman first class.

John Tranberg, a civilian defense attorney representing the boatswain's mate, said he believed the charges had been exaggerated. He was reluctant to comment further on the case, saying he was uncertain if information was classified.

The alleged abuses occurred between October 2003 and April, according to the charge sheets.

Five other SEALs were implicated. Charges were dismissed Tuesday against a chief petty officer in a nonjudicial proceeding known as a captain's mist, said civilian defense attorney Jeremiah Sullivan.

The remaining cases have not been scheduled for Article 32 hearings, said Cmdr Jeff Bender, a spokesman for Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado.



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# Doell calls for Arafat to loosen reins

## Palestinian leader undergoing medical tests at Paris hematology clinic

BY JOCELYN GECKER

The Associated Press

CLAMART, France — French doctors — including specialists in blood disorders — began examining Yasser Arafat on Friday after the ailing Palestinian leader was rushed to Paris to undergo treatment for a serious but mysterious illness.

Arafat, for decades the voice of the Palestinian struggle for an independent homeland, landed at an airfield outside Paris and was flown by helicopter to the Hospital d'Instruction des Armees de Percy.

The hospital, southwest of Paris, has a state-of-the-art hematology clinic, where patients ailing from blood disorders are treated. The Defense ministry confirmed that Arafat was under the care of specialists there.

Arafat's presence in France also stirred controversy. Families of French victims of terrorist attacks in Israel plan to ask judi-

cial authorities to question Arafat, attorney Michel Calvo said Friday. The request was to be presented to France's chief anti-terror judge, Jean-Louis Bruguiere. The pursuit of any criminal probe against Arafat is bound to complicate the French government's diplomatically sensitive decision to provide him with medical treatment.

"I don't think it would be wise for any of us to put out hypotheticals as to what would happen after Chairman Arafat leaves," Secretary of State Colin Powell said in an interview with Egyptian Television and the satellite station Nile TV.

But he repeated U.S. calls for Arafat to surrender some of his powers — particularly control over Palestinian security forces.

"We believe the Palestinian people would be better off with an empowered prime minister who has political authority and who has control of the security forces," he said.

Leila Shahid, the Palestinian envoy to

Paris, said Arafat began undergoing tests immediately upon arrival. Doctors were likely to need at least several days before issuing any kind of diagnosis.

"He's already in his room surrounded by his doctors who have started examining him," Shahid said. "He arrived in good health, conscious, smiling — happy to be in France."

Arafat touched down in the early afternoon at a military airfield southwest of Paris aboard a French military Falcon 900 jet. He was then transferred by helicopter to the hospital under tight security. Paramedics carried Arafat into the building from the hospital's rooftop helipad on a stretcher. Palestinian Civil Affairs Minister Jamil Tarifi, who was on the plane with Arafat, said his condition was "good, thank God."

The 75-year-old Palestinian leader has been sick for the past two weeks but took a turn for the worse Wednesday night, when he collapsed and briefly lost consciousness.



PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY/AP

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, left, is seen aboard a French hospital plane Friday enroute from Amman, Jordan, to Paris.

### 7 suspects detained

KABUL, Afghanistan — Police detained seven suspects for questioning in the kidnapping of three U.N. election workers in the Afghan capital, officials said Friday, but investigators appeared no closer to establishing whether Taliban-linked militants or criminals were responsible for the abductions.

Foreign aid workers were told to restrict their movements around Kabul. Some still ventured out around the city.

The victims have been identified as a male Filipino diplomat, Angelito Nayan, and two women — Shipee Habibi of Kosovo and Annetta Flanigan from Northern Ireland. All work for a joint U.N.-Afghan commission overseeing landmark presidential elections.

### Violence in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia — Mobs brandishing machetes, sticks and Kalashnikov rifles rampaged through Liberia's war-shattered capital Friday, prompting the country's leader to order an immediate daylight curfew to stem the rare Muslim-Christian violence. A U.N. armored vehicle trying to disperse a crowd inadvertently crushed three people to death, a policeman said.

At least three churches and two mosques in the eastern suburb of Paynesville were set ablaze after midnight, and several wounded people lay in the streets, an Associated Press photographer on the scene said. It was unclear what sparked the violence.

### EU's first constitution

ROME — The 25 European Union leaders on Friday signed the EU's first constitution, which aims to boost the union's presence on the world stage but will face a tough ratification test at the hands of European parliament and voters before it can take effect.

At least nine EU nations plan to put it to a referendum starting with Spain on Feb. 20.

From The Associated Press

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# North Korean asylum bids surge in China

BY HAWON JUNG  
The Associated Press

SEOUL — When famine struck their North Korean hometown in 1997, Hwang Keum-ran fled with her family across the nearby border with China. Six years of hardship later, the family reached their destination: South Korea.

"For me, living here is more than just a better life," Hwang told The Associated Press this week. "Now my family has a dream, which we haven't had for a long time."

The dramatic stories of Hwang, 40, and other North Korean asylum-seekers who dodged Chinese police or spent time in jail serve as the backdrop for a string of high-profile, mass asylum bids in recent years.

Such bids have increased sharply in recent weeks, often involving dozens of people at a time.

"When trying to enter a foreign consulate quickly, it's safer to move together," said Park Sang Hak, manager of Democracy Network against North Korean Gulag, a human rights group in Seoul.

"It gives them more guts to do such a highly dangerous thing."

Desperate to flee hunger and repression in their homeland, more than 5,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War.

Last year, 1,285 defectors arrived in the South, up from 1,140 in 2002 and 583 in 2001. In July, some 460 North Koreans entered the Southeast Asian country in two-day airlifts, the biggest mass defection so far.

In September, 44 North Koreans entered the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. This month, two groups of North Koreans have entered the South Korean consulate and one group at a school in China's capital.

Scores of them are still awaiting their fate.

The possible reasons for the surge are many: Successful defection stories have encouraged others to attempt escape, activists who help them are better organized and the border between China and North Korea is increasingly porous. China appears to be cracking down, raiding homes near the border, rights activists say.

The issue is especially sensitive because South Korea and China are trying to persuade North Korea to reinstate talks on ending Pyongyang's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

Typically, a group of North Koreans rushes toward a foreign embassy or school in Beijing and scales fences or pushes its way past guards at the gates. After weeks of negotiating, China usually allows the asylum-seekers to travel via another country, often in Southeast Asia, to begin a new life in South Korea.

Beijing is obligated by treaty with North Korea to send asylum-seekers home. But its leniency in publicized cases may be an effort to avoid international condemnation if authorities send defectors back to totalitarian North Korea, where they could face harsh treatment.

China said Thursday it will punish anyone who helps asylum-seekers break into diplomatic missions, a day after two South Korean human rights activists were detained along with 65 North Koreans.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman

Zhang Qiye said organizers of such "illegal immigration" will face legal consequences.

On the night of Sept. 18, 1997, Hwang and her family left their hometown, Hwaryung City, and crossed the Tumen River that forms the border with the help of a relative in China.

Hwang said they were desperate because most manufacturing plants in their home had shut down due to electricity and raw material shortages, and people were starving.

"There was no food distribution, and no way for most people in our village to survive," she said.

The family moved more than 20 times in China, working at manufacturing plants and dodging police.

"Most of us used to sleep with clothes on and the windows open, so that we could quickly run away if Chinese police broke into our house," she said.

Hwang was captured by Chinese police in 2003 and sent back to North Korea with her two daughters. She was jailed, but a relative bribed officials to let her out, and made her way back to China.

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## Koizumi says emperor did not overstep his authority

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese officials rushed on Friday to dismiss suggestions that the emperor overstepped his authority and meddled in government affairs by voicing his opposition to Tokyo schools' policy of compulsory patriotism.

Wading into the controversy over patriotism in schools, Emperor Akihito on Thursday said he hoped nobody was being forced to face the flag and sing the national anthem — both potent symbols of Japan's brutal 20th century invasion of Asia.

The comments caused a stir in Japan because the post-World War II constitution strictly limits the emperor to acting as a figurehead and bars him from policy-making.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Friday he thought Akihito wasn't trying to influence the government.

"It should be natural for him to say that. That's how I view it," Koizumi told reporters. "The comment shouldn't be viewed as political."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda stressed that the emperor's remarks were consistent with national government policy.

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# Stars align for candidates' final push

BY CALVIN WOODWARD  
AND TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Challenger John Kerry and President Bush began running on their long campaigns Friday as they headed into the final weekend, Kerry contending Bush "just doesn't understand the problems facing America" and the president saying he was the best man to keep the nation safe from terrorists.

Bush was set to campaign with actor-political Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Kerry implored Floridians to "walk out of here and vote," a reference to early voting allowed in the crucial battleground state and many others.

He also painted a verbal picture of a man on Election Day at the polls "whose job has been outsourced" and is pondering whether to vote for the Democrat or a president "who fights for those at the top while telling everyone else that this is the best economy of a lifetime."

He renewed his contention that Bush has diverted attention from the real threats of al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden by making war in Iraq.

A day earlier, Bush turned to a pair of American heroes for affirmation of his re-election bid. Retired Gen. Tommy Franks, who

oversaw the combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, saluted his old boss Thursday night. Bush also was getting the endorsement of freshly minted World Series champion pitcher Curt Schilling. The Boston Red Sox player had planned to appear Friday with Bush, but his doctors advised him not to travel because of his injured ankle, Bush aides said.

After his appearance in New Hampshire, Bush was to share the stage in Ohio with California Gov. Schwarzenegger.

The stars that counted for Bush on Thursday were those carried by a lineup of retired military officers who joined him before a crowd of more than 10,000 in suburban Cleveland. Chief among the brass was Franks, who saluted Bush and said Kerry "disrespects our troops."

"God bless you, Tommy," Bush said as he took the microphone from him.

In Madison, Wis., more than 80,000 people turned out Thursday to see Kerry and Bruce Springsteen, who sang "Promised Land" and "No Surrender," the latter adopted as the Democrat's campaign anthem. Sheryl Crow and Bon Jovi, too, have been the Massachusetts senator's opening acts this week.

Bush, meanwhile, sought a final push in New Hampshire and then

headed for battleground Ohio to campaign with Schwarzenegger. In Manchester, N.H., Bush hit hard on the points that have underscored his yearlong battle for re-election: that the invasion of Iraq was the right thing to do and that he is the man best able to keep America safe.

"The president must make America's priorities absolutely clear especially in our uncertain world," said Bush, who was joined at an arena by relatives of victims of the terrorist attacks. "I've learned firsthand how hard it is to send young men and women into battle, even when the cause is right."

"The issues vary. The challenges are different every day. The polls go up. The polls go down. But a president's convictions must be consistent and true," Bush said.

Both men continued to lead criticism at each other but in more subdued fashion than in recent days.

Said Kerry: "It's time to appeal to the best instincts of Democrats, Republicans and independents alike."

In La Crosse, Wis., Kerry running mate John Edwards said the news of the past week — a missing cache of explosives in Iraq and the FBI investigation into Halliburton's contracts in Iraq — prove that new leadership is needed in the White House.

"They've been incompetent in Iraq and here at home they always look out for their powerful friends at the top," the Democratic vice presidential candidate said.

"We have great faith in the American people to see through all the issues that are out there and make the right decisions," McClellan said aboard Air Force One as Bush flew to New Hampshire.


In New Hampshire, demonstrators at the Bush rally held up signs that spelled out "360 TONS," Bush

backers shouted them down with chants of "four more years!" and the protesters' backers ripped the placards from the protesters' hands.

In an interview Thursday with "NBC Nightly News," Kerry said that if he'd been president then, "we might have gone to war," but he would have done so in a way that ensured "the American people weren't carrying the burden and the entire world understood."

Of Saddam Hussein's fate, Kerry said: "It's absolutely impossible and irresponsible to suggest that if I were president, he wouldn't necessarily be gone. He might be gone. Because if he hadn't complied [with U.N. demands], we might have had to go to war."

Associated Press writer Tom Raum, traveling with Bush, reported from Westlake, Ohio, AP writer Mary Matalin, traveling with Kerry, also contributed to this report.



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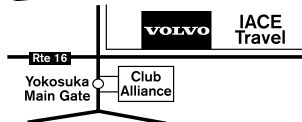
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# A guide to tracking election night returns

BY LANCE GAY

Scraps Howard News Service

Okay, now that you have an "I voted" sticker on your lapel you can sit back and watch the results of the election on Tuesday night, Nov. 2.

Here's a guide for what you will want to look for:

**ELECTORAL VOTES:** It takes 270 votes of the 538 total votes in the Electoral College to win. A 269-269 tie would throw the election to the House of Representatives, where each state delegation would have one vote. In the current House, Republicans control 30 of the 50 delegations.

**BATTLEGROUND STATES:** You already are familiar with the key swing states, because they are where George Bush and John Kerry have been concentrating all their campaigning for the last month.

With their electoral votes, they are: Arizona, 10; Arkansas, 6; Delaware, 3; Florida, 27; Iowa, 7; Louisiana, 9; Maine, 4; Michigan, 17; Minnesota, 10; Missouri, 11; Nevada, 5; New Hampshire, 4; New Mexico, 5; Ohio, 20; Oregon, 7; Pennsylvania, 21; Washington, 11; West Virginia, 5; Wisconsin, 10.

**EXIT POLLS:** Politicians and the TV networks still rely on exit polling to divine which way the voters are going. A cautionary note: the trend to early voting is making them unreliable.

The networks refuse to disclose the results before the polls close, but an indication of what they are finding is reflected in how the anchors cast their stories. On the evening news casts, he attuned to phrases like "It's been a good day for George Bush," or "A strong voter turnout at the polls today looked like it would help John Kerry."

**STATES TO WATCH:** The East Coast results are going to reflect a national trend. Political experts say that given the breakdown in other states, Kerry can't win unless he picks up two of these three states — Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida.

Here are the highlights:

■ **Pennsylvania** has received the most presidential visits under George Bush than any other state. The state has voted Republican for some state offices and there's a large Roman Catholic vote, but it's also one of the Rust Belt states hit hard by the 2001 recession and Bush's decision to abandon tariffs on imported steel. It went for Al Gore in 2000 and is the home of Teresa Heinz Kerry, John Kerry's wife.

■ **Ohio:** No Republican has ever won the White House without winning in Ohio. The state also hasn't gone to the losing candidate since 1960, when Richard Nixon won here, but lost the election to John F. Kennedy. George Bush took the state with a 4 per-

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cent margin in 2000, but the recession cost the state 225,000 jobs. Gun rights and gay rights are big issues in Ohio.

■ **Florida:** The Sunshine state was bitterly fought over in the 2000 election, and Bush won by just 537 votes. Staunchly conservative and Republican regions in the north offset a strong Democratic vote among South Florida's elderly voters. Bush is counting on a booming economy and the help of his brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, to pull him through.

■ **West Virginia:** George W. Bush was the first Republican to win West Virginia since Ronald Reagan and Republicans are desperate to hold onto this traditionally Democratic stronghold. John Kerry wants to win West Virginia back, but he's hampered by declining union clout and Bush's strong stand on defense.

■ **Michigan:** Kerry should begin his concession speech if he loses this state. Al Gore won it comfortably by 5 percent of the vote and the state's heavy Muslim vote supports Kerry. But Michigan has a large number of retired

veterans and Lebanese Christians who are increasingly Republican.

■ **Wisconsin:** Democrat Al Gore won this state by 5,708 votes in 2000, and it's one of the central battlegrounds between Democrats and the GOP. Wisconsin's old tradition of liberal Republicanism has been changed as the party has attracted conservative Christian groups in the South.

■ **Minnesota:** Minnesota hasn't voted for a Republican president since 1972, but the voters here are seeing ex-wrestler Jesse Ventura in as governor in 1998. Ralph Nader did well here and the Minnesota outcome will be an early indicator of what impact Nader's candidacy will have in this election.

■ **Missouri:** Missouri has been the most reliable barometer for presidential hopefuls, voting for the winner in every presidential election in the last 100 years except 1956. Bush carried Missouri by just 80,000 votes in 2004.

■ **Washington:** The state is divided between the liberal vote in Seattle and the conservative vote in eastern parts of the state. Ralph Nader has a lot of student support on Seattle's campuses. His candidacy could take votes away from John Kerry here. The state hasn't voted for a Republican presidential candidate in 20 years.

**THE HOUSE:** All 435 seats are

up for re-election. The current breakdown is 227 Republican, 205 Democrats, 1 independent, with two vacant seats formerly held by Republicans.

Watch for returns in Texas where a handful of Democratic seats could go Republican.

**THE SENATE:** Currently controlled by Republicans 51-48 with 1 independent.

If there are any coattails from the presidential election, they'll show up early in the evening in three key East Coast Senate races: Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina. All three seats are currently held by retiring Democrats, so a GOP pickup in any of them would be cause for jubilation by Republicans that their "Southern strategy" — being strong on issues appealing to Christian voters and strong on defense — is the path to future success.

Later in the evening, watch for the returns in South Dakota, Colorado and Alaska. Washington insiders are particularly interested in the South Dakota contest where Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle could be fatally hurt by a strong Bush vote.

**AFTERMATH:** Any legal challenges to the election have to be cleared by Dec. 7. Electors meet in their respective state capitals Dec. 13. A special joint session of the new Congress convenes Jan. 6 to read and certify the votes and officially declare the winner.

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# Pa. deadline for overseas ballot counts extended

Parents of 2 GIs had sued for more time

BY MARK SCOLFORD  
The Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A federal judge approved a settlement Friday between Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell and the parents of two servicemen who sued to extend the deadline for counting overseas military and civilian ballots for president.

The deadline for counting the presidential ballots was extended by eight days to 5 p.m. on Nov. 10. Rendell said he would also seek the same extension for state election races.

Rendell agreed to seek a seven-day extension after resisting Republican calls for a two-week extension for several days.

He laid a news conference in Philadelphia that Republicans could produce only one voter — out of 26,000 overseas military and civilian voters — who failed to get the absentee ballot he requested.

Nonetheless, "Even if it's just one or two votes, their votes should be counted," Rendell said.

Robert J. Reitz Sr., who sued on behalf of his son, said the deal line may not leave enough time

for Army Spc. Steven J. Reitz to return the ballot he received Thursday in Baghdad. But he said the additional time may benefit others.

"In light of all the others that will get in between now and then, it's the best we can do," he said.

The two sides, helped along by U.S. District Judge Yvette Kane, negotiated in her chambers for three hours Friday morning before reaching the compromise.

The Republican-financed lawsuit was filed Wednesday and named Rendell and Secretary of State Pedro Cortes. It had sought a 15-day extension for the ballots' return.

GOP state Sen. John Pippy, an Army reserve captain who served in Iraq, criticized Rendell's proposal for a one-week extension, saying the governor had asked for — and received — a nearly three-week extension for counting absentee ballots in the April primary.

Pippy told a news conference in Pittsburgh that it took three to six weeks for mail to get from the United States to Iraq when he served there. He said he would like to see the state Republican Party, whose efforts to intervene in the case were halted by the settlement, said the party was considering filing its own federal lawsuit asking to push back the deadline further.

## Intelligence overhaul draws yawn from American public

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans and Democrats were for it and against it. The families of Sept. 11 victims opposed one plan and approved another. The House wanted its bill, the Senate preferred its own.

And most Americans didn't seem to care.

To the dismay of the Sept. 11 commission and families of those killed that day, voters haven't de-

manded the reshuffling of the nation's spy shops the way they supported folding two dozen agencies into a new Homeland Security Department two years ago.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2001 al-Qaida attack on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Congress passed the anti-terrorism Patriot Act, bestowing broad new powers on police and prosecutors to monitor and help suspected terrorists. It took a little time for President Bush to buy into the idea of a Homeland Security Department, but once he did, Congress created one after the 2002 election.

The former elected offshoots from each party who headed the Sept. 11 commission had

counted on lawmakers remembering how some Democrats were pummeled for resisting Bush's demand to end civil service and union rights for some federal workers being moved to Homeland Security. Democratic Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia, a Vietnam War triple amputee, lost his seat after taking the side of public employee unions in the dispute.

But voters this year showed little interest in rewarding supporters or punishing opponents of legislation turning the Sept. 11 commission's terror-fighting recommendations into law before Election Day.

When it came to crunch time, lawmakers "sort of backed off and waited for the reaction of the American public," said Mary Fetscher, whose 24-year-old son Brad died in the World Trade Center attacks.

The response of the American public was to yawn. Voters and candidates aren't bringing up the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations and Congress's inaction on them.

"It's not a top issue on people's minds," House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, pointed out weeks ago.



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# Man who was over half a ton has surgery

BY DORIS HAUGEN  
The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — A man who weighed about half a ton when he was admitted to a hospital was recovering Wednesday from obesity surgery. Doctors said he was "doing very well," moving around and even cracking jokes.

"He's very witty," surgeon Dr. Frederick Harris told reporters Wednesday.

Patrick Deuel, 42, underwent the procedure to reduce the size of his stomach four months after being admitted to the hospital at 1,072 pounds.

He was in good spirits and relieved Tuesday's surgery went so well, Harris said. "We didn't find anything that was scary at all," he said.

Rehabilitation could start in about a week and Deuel could be home by the end of November, Harris said.

In the hours leading up to surgery, however, Deuel was anxious, wanting the procedure done but worrying he wouldn't wake up, Harris said. Once the surgery preparations began, he began to relax.

"He was singing right up to the part where they put the tube in his mouth," Harris said.

Deuel had been bedridden since last fall and was malnourished because so many of his calories came from foods high in fat and carbohydrates.

Deuel had difficulty breathing and suffered from high blood pressure and diabetes linked to obesity that his doctor said were killing him.

Gastric bypass surgery was thought to be his best chance for permanent weight loss, but doctors said Deuel needed to lose some weight first, to gain enough strength so he could walk on his own and prove he was healthy enough to survive the surgery.

Before going into surgery on Tuesday, Deuel had lost 421 pounds.

He said his diabetes and high-blood pressure were under control and credited the results to a 1,200-calorie-a-day diet and exercise.

Caregivers and others are starting to take notice of the changes, he said.

"Every time I move, they don't look at me like, 'My God, he is going to fall down or something,'" Deuel told Sioux Falls television station KLEO in an interview before the surgery.



Patrick Deuel

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# O'Reilly, ex-producer settle harassment suit

BY SAMUEL MAULL  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Citing his wish to shield his family, Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly settled a harassment lawsuit brought by a former producer accusing him of graphically discussing sex with her.

"This brutal ordeal is now officially over, and I will never speak of it again," O'Reilly said on Thurs-

day night's edition of his talk show, "The O'Reilly Factor."

O'Reilly, who is married with two children, also dropped an extortion lawsuit against his accuser and her lawyer. Both sides have agreed to keep the details confidential, O'Reilly's attorney said.

Andrea Mackris, 33, who was a producer on the show, sued the outspoken, top-rated TV host Oct. 13, alleging O'Reilly made a series of explicit phone calls to her, advised

her to use a vibrator and telling her about sexual fantasies involving her.

Earlier that day, O'Reilly, 55, filed a lawsuit accusing Mackris and her lawyer of trying to extort \$50 million in "cash money" over her allegations.

"This matter has caused enormous pain, but I had to protect my family, and I did," O'Reilly, whose ratings have gone up 30 percent since the lawsuits were filed, told

his viewers Thursday. "All I longed for was peace so not believe everything you hear and read."

Shortly before "Factor" aired, O'Reilly's lawyer, Ronald Green, issued a statement saying the cases and claims had been withdrawn and all parties agreed there was no wrongdoing by O'Reilly, Mackris or Mackris' lawyer.

Green's statement about the settlement did not mention money, and it could not be learned immediately whether it was a factor.

Mackris' lawyer didn't return several telephone calls seeking comment.

Earlier, O'Reilly had vowed to fight the accusations.

"If I have to go down, I'm willing to do it," he said just after the suits were filed. "I'm going to take a stand. I'm a big mouth on the air and I'm a big mouth off the air."

He called the case "the single most evil thing I have ever experienced, and I've seen a lot. But these people picked the wrong guy."

Green had refused to confirm or deny specific things that Mackris claimed O'Reilly said to her, but he



O'Reilly

there were tapes of conversations between the two and asked a court to compel Mackris to produce them so they could be played publicly.

"I know that he does not fear what is on the tapes," Green said at the time.

Among the accusations made in the suit, Mackris said O'Reilly suggested during a phone conversation in August that she buy a vibrator and was clearly excited. Before hanging up, she said, O'Reilly told her: "I appreciate the fun phone call." She contended he made a similar call Sept. 21, ending by saying: "Next time you'll come up to my hotel room and we'll make this happen."

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## Notorious B.I.G.'s mom drops wrongful death suit

LOS ANGELES — The mother of late rap star Notorious B.I.G. has decided to dismiss from a wrongful death lawsuit the man she accused of shooting her son, raising new questions about theories surrounding the entertainer's slaying seven years ago.

In her suit, Voletta Wallace named Los Angeles area resident Harry Billups, also known as Amir Muhammad, as the triggerman who ambushed her son on March 9, 1997, in the mid-Wilshire district. Billups could not be reached for comment Thursday, but has long denied any involvement in the killing.

Wallace was unavailable, and her attorneys refused to discuss the terms of the proposed dismissal or why it was initiated. The case came after Billups, who has never been questioned by police, submitted to a pre-trial deposition during which he denied involvement in the murder and offered to take a lie detector test by the FBI, according to sources close to the negotiations.

The sources said no money changed hands as part of a confidential settlement between the two parties. Wallace agreed, however, to dismiss Billups as a defendant in the case.

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# Halloween revelers preteend to be pimps

By RON HARRIS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — As the nation's Halloween revelers head into this weekend of festivities, they can expect to see lots of pimps, or at least people pretending to be pimps.

Dressed in colorful, often garish costumes will be teenage pimps, adult pimps, female pimps, even children dressed up as pimps, thanks to a Los Angeles-based firm that for the past two years has been selling thousands of the outfits.

Some may come knocking on your door with the traditional "trick or treat." If not, you will certainly be able to find hundreds, maybe even thousands at the dozens of "Pimp and Hooker" balls that will be taking place around the country this weekend, like the four in the Baltimore area, the fourth annual "Pimp and Ho" (Halloween Bash) in Chicago, the 7th Annual "Pimp and Prostitutes" Ball in Houston, or the one in Detroit or Las Vegas.

Pimping, to the dismay of some, has become a part of popular culture — from rapper Nelly's energy drink Pimp Juice, which has sold more than 4 million units world-

## Pop culture takes wild turn for trick or treat

wide, to the hit MTV television series "Pimp My Ride" to a Web site that sells "Pimp and Ho" costumes. Halloween Pimping has changed from a word that once described a profession that even hard-core criminals considered near the bottom of their occupational ladder to something hip.

"I wouldn't say it's a positive thing," said Kimberly Osorio, editor of Vibe, the nation's leading music and culture magazine for young adults. "The word is always going to be defined as what it has been, however, there are ways that you can use the word positively, and that's what hip hop has done over the years."

The cultural embrace of the term crosses lines of color, class and age.

It includes advertising executives, accountants, nurses, truck drivers and others from suburbs. Baltimore where for the past four years have gathered twice annually for their Pimp and Hooker Ball at Padonia Station in Timonium, Md. It includes a plethora of music artists — from white rocker

Kid Rock to black rapper 50 Cent — whose songs extol the virtues of being a pimp.

It includes "Pimp My Bride," a headline on the CBS News Web site for a column about marriage reality shows and the new Japanese PIMP wristwatch at a Japanese novelty store, TokyoFlash. It includes Web sites, like [pimpclothing.com](http://pimpclothing.com) and [pimpfarms.com](http://pimpfarms.com), where people can buy pimp and whore garb. In white suburbia, prostitute theme parties have become the rage in private homes.

The trend includes Judith Southard, a makeup artist and aesthetician at Lemon Spal in upscale Central West End in St. Louis. "The No. 1 makeup look I'm doing for Halloween this year is of prostitutes," Southard said.

Not everyone is happy about this heightened interest in pimps. Nelly has had to defend the name he chose for his energy drink, particularly when some black organizations threatened to boycott it.

"In hip-hop, we take words that are negative and turn them into a

positive," Nelly said in an interview with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch last month. "These are words kids hear every day in the neighborhoods, so let's turn them into positives. I got a little son who's 5 years old. He'll come in and I'll ask how he did on the coloring test, and he'll say, 'I pimped it, man, I got an A.' It's not derogative."

Jonathan Weeks designed the Pimp and Ho Costumes for Brands On Sale, a Los Angeles based-company that sells costumes, appliances, jewelry and a wide variety of other items primarily on the Internet. He and his company have taken heat for coming up with the outfits.

"Anyone who sells this crap to children or lets them wear it should be shot in the face," wrote Chris after reviewing the product on the Internet. "I AM VERY ANGRY," wrote Hashish.

"I hate it enough when it's frat boys and sorority girls, but children..." wrote Anne. "What awful parents."

Weeks says he made the costumes in response to customer de-

mand. The company sells about 2,500 children's pimp and whore outfits annually, and the numbers are growing, he said. Additionally, it sells tens of thousands of costumes for adults each year, he said.

"We just give the people what they want," Weeks said. "We're not in the business of exploiting children. This is just a costume."

But law enforcement officials and social workers, particularly those whose job it is to arrest real pimps and in many cases actually rescue women and girls from prostitution, find it appalling.

"I don't think any of this is funny at all," said Lois Lee, president and founder of Children of the Night, a nonprofit organization based in Van Nuys, Calif., that rescues children from prostitution. "What these guys do is not funny at all. There's nothing hip or funny about torturing children, and that's what they do."

Set Joe Delella of the Maryland Heights, Mo., police department was involved in one of the largest prostitution-pimp cases in the nation's history.

"There was a whole family, three generations and all of them pimps," he said. "We identified 53 girls who worked for them; 32 of them were under the age of 18."



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# Scholar points to democratic views in Bible

BY RICHARD N. OSTLING

The Associated Press

"Is democracy actually a Chris-

tian notion? Is it found in the Bible?"

"Yes and no," continued the

Rev. Stephen Noll, a U.S. Episcopalian who is vice chancellor of Uganda Christian University, in a sermon marking Uganda's inde-

pendence day. He spoke on the Anglican campus two days after mailing his own absentee ballot for the U.S. election.

The whole question might seem anachronistic because the Bible was written thousands of years ago when modern notions of representative government were unknown. But Noll asserted that democracy is fully compatible with biblical principles.

"Over the past several hundred years, Christians have been in the forefront of promoting democracy," he noted.

On the other hand, Christians have often lived under non-democratic regimes, and for 1,000 years they "seemed to believe that monarchy — the rule of the divinely appointed king — was the normal Christian political arrangement."

The Old Testament concept of government was a form of limited constitutional monarchy, Noll said, citing Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and 1 Samuel 8. He said the Bible's detailed laws of justice, including those given to Moses on Mount Sinai, were "a kind of constitution" ratified by the people.

In Deuteronomy, God tells Moses that after his people enter the promised land they will choose a king. God says the monarch should be a believer, should not build up his own riches or lord it over the people, and must obey biblical law.

"The Bible does not require kings, but it does make clear that kings are to be constitutional" and bound by the moral law, he said.

The Israelites spent centuries without a king in a loose tribal confederacy that was unstable, chaotic and difficult to defend.

Eventually the people demanded that the prophet Samuel anoint a monarch so that "we also may be like all the nations."

Samuel does their bidding and unhappily anoints King Saul. But before doing so, Noll noted, the prophet warns that "monarchy would become a burdensome bureaucracy and eventually lead the nation into ruin."

So much for the medieval "divine right of kings!" In Noll's view, therefore, the Bible teaches

that government by monarchy "was founded in sin and lack of faith in God. It was provisional at best."

The New Testament, he said, develops and clarifies things.

It teaches that human government should preserve order and protect justice, which are beneficial. 1 Peter 2:13-17 tells believers to "live as free men" but "subject for the Lord's sake" to the rulers provided by God "to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right."

However, this leaves passage aside the question of believers' duty when rulers do the opposite, which was addressed especially during the Protestant Reformation.

But government cannot mediate the truths of salvation, Noll said, and that's a warning against

African kingships, Islamic theocracies, ideologies such as communism and all other temporal systems that "claim absolute god-like authority."

Democracy makes no such assertions for itself and, to Noll, that very limitation is "the foundation of Christian support" for constitutional democracy.

The Jesus figure, Noll said, mostly told the colonial ruler Pontius Pilate, "My kingship is not from the world" in John 18:36. And the Apostle Paul taught that "our commonwealth is in heaven" in Philippians 3:20.

Whether government is kingly or democratic, Noll said, the Bible can "give good advice to rulers, even while keeping for itself worship of the one King of all the ages, Jesus Christ," who is depicted in the Book of Revelation as establishing the future kingdom of righteousness.

He concluded, "I hope you students will take seriously your responsibilities for the future of this nation. Be sure to vote and be sure to have your say in the direction this country will take."

Added note: Noll said "the really big question today" isn't about Christianity but whether Islam can also come to support democracy. "The record does not look good; almost all the Muslim countries today are tyrannies," he charged, while seeing potential promise in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as Turkey.

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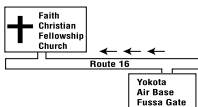
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# Experts: Girls adopting male views toward sex

BY MEGAN TWOHEY

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — Heather, a 16-year-old with sandy blond hair, remembers how it felt the time she had sex on the same day with two different boys. Neither was her boyfriend.

"I felt like I was in control," said the Neenah, Wis., native, who like other teens interviewed for this story is being identified only by her first name. "I felt like a player."

Fourteen-year-old Mia of Racine, Wis., explains with pride how she uses a calculated approach to flirting and dating to extract money from multiple boys.

"I've been pimping," Mia said. "I've got dudes who give me money every day."

A lot of adults may not want to believe it, but these and other teenage girls are adopting some stereotypical "male" attitudes toward sex, according to reports from a national research firm and interviews with girls and officials who work with them.

They're not only casual about having sex or "hooking up" with multiple partners; they're proud of it, referring to themselves as "pimps" and "players" and bragging about their exploits. These girls see themselves as using sex to assert their power over boys (and girls), while liberating their gender from the stereotypical categories of virgin and whore.

But many are stripping themselves of femininity, true happiness and the ability to have healthy relationships in the process, said Deborah Hoffman, a sex education teacher and author of "Sex and Sensibility: The Thinking Parent's Guide to Talk-

ing Sense about Sex."

Planned Parenthood says that promiscuity is helping fuel the rise of sexually transmitted diseases among teenagers. There's also evidence the trend is turning dangerous in other ways, with girls sexually harassing and even assaulting boys.

The rise of the female player was documented in a report released in January by the marketing research firm Motivation Educational Entertainment Productions.

The firm conducted 40 focus groups of 280 black teens and young adults in 10 cities, and interviewed numerous experts on sexuality, the media and public health.

"Everything is flipped," said a New York girl quoted in the report. "We used to bag chicks; now they're baggin' us. Chicks got serious now."

This behavior has been seen in girls from all backgrounds, according to Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, which recently completed analyzing more than a year's worth of focus groups of white, black and Hispanic youths in Milwaukee and Madison.

Female players range from girls who have casual "hook-ups" that don't necessarily involve sex to those who have multiple sexual partners.

Girls who call themselves pimps have sex or simply flirt with multiple boys with the intention of getting cash, car rides or

other favors from them. These girls draw satisfaction from making the boys think they are the sole recipient of their affection.

They talk openly about their conquests and the importance of satisfying their physical needs.

"I guess if you heard it, you'd probably be a little shocked. It sounds like stuff boys in a locker room would say," said Dan Baran, director of Professional Services, an organization that runs youth programs in Wisconsin's Kenosha, Milwaukee and Racine Counties.

Some girls even wear their attitudes on their clothing.

Nelly is among the male rappers who promote the player image among men. In recent years, female rappers have seized the image and made it their own.

Perhaps most prominent is the vulgar vixen Lil' Kim, who raps in graphic detail about her male conquests. Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera are among other female performers who, on stage and off, have made sexually charged behavior acceptable in the eyes of girls and boys alike.

Alecia, a 16-year-old from Neenah, said she wants to act like the male players she sees on TV because they seem powerful and in control.

But sexual activity without intimacy has left many girls feeling hollow or emotionally damaged, said Hoffman, who works

with teens across the country.

Many are depressed and have no idea how to have a healthy, romantic relationship. The same goes for boys with casual and detached attitudes toward sex, she said.

There are also the health risks that come with promiscuity.

The teen pregnancy rate is down across the country, but teens ages 15 to 19 who have had sex have the highest rates of sexually transmitted disease of any age group in the country. The highest rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia — diseases that can cause infertility — are found among girls ages 15 to 19, according to a report released in February by the University of North Carolina's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

In certain cases, sexual aggressiveness is escalating into sexual harassment. School officials say they see more and more girls groping boys in the hallways and classrooms.

In extreme cases, boys are getting hurt.

To counter these aggressive attitudes, Planned Parenthood is reworking the teen workshops it runs in schools and churches and through other community organizations to place greater emphasis on the importance of healthy relationships. The workshops will force girls who act like pimps and players to examine why.

But don't expect girl players to disappear any time soon.

"What a lot of boys and a lot of adults don't understand is that the door swings both ways," said Lisa, 18, of Brookfield, Wis. "It's not just boys who sometimes want something purely physical. Girls have needs too."

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Stars and Stripes (USPS #417 900) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 56 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002.

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When we were kids, our mother and father teased each other about race in a playful way that puts the Census Bureau about 500 years hence. Both of them were Mexican-Americans born in the United States.

## Joe Rodriguez



Pop was big, tall and as bronze as an Indian from northern Mexico. From when his family came. A truck driver with morning rounds, he had to get to bed early on weekdays. That was impossible when our Mexican immigrant neighbors panted too loud. Furious, Pop would open the window.

"Muchachos, por favor! Let a man get his sleep." Then he would turn to our light-skinned mother and proclaim, "I thank God he made me an Indian, and not a Mexican!"

We kids were darker than Mama, a trait that allowed her a comeback line whenever we misbehaved. She'd turn to him and

yell at us, "Indios de mala clase!" Low-class Indians.

Of course, Pop wasn't a pure-blooded Indian and Mama wasn't entirely white. Like most Mexicans, they were "mestizos," people of mixed Indian and white blood. They were only playing with stereotypes, but their game reflected an expansive Latino view of race that began five centuries ago.

Now the Census Bureau is trying to turn back the racial clock. The bureaucrats would do this by eliminating a racial category chosen by nearly 15 million Hispanics in 2000: "some other race."

I was one of them. When my census form arrived, I looked under Latino-Hispanic and checked Mexican-American, my ethnicity. That was easy.

The racial categories stumped me. I had to choose one or more of these: white, black, Asian, American Indian or Alaska native, or Pacific Islander. None fit, so I chose "some other race" and in the line next to it penciled in "mestizo."

Likewise, many Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans and other Latinos described themselves as jaban, indio, trigueño, moreno or any of the dozens of racial categories Latin Americans have used for centuries.

While almost half of Latinos described themselves as white and 2 percent chose black, "some other race" was more accurate, and more Latinos are choosing it with each census.

So why would the Census Bureau want to eliminate the option? The main problem is that many Latinos, as other Americans, don't respond to the race question at all, or they'll erroneously write in Mexican, Puerto Rican or another ethnic repetition. This forces census officials to guess the race of these individuals, which can screw up the data files used to moni-

tor voting and civil rights enforcement, political redistricting and other protections.

This argument strikes me as putting computers before people. Most Latinos identify themselves and express their political views through their ethnicities, not by their race. When Mexican-Americans or Dominican-Americans lobby for bilingual education, they don't do it as blacks, whites or Asians who happen to be of Mexican or Dominican heritages.

We know who we are. And I find the "some other race" category helpful because it tells us who we are becoming. America is still a melting pot. The notion of a multicultural salad bowl or mosaic, in which distinct groups exist side by side without really blending, is a bit too static for me.

The history of the Americas is one of racial and ethnic blending on a truly massive scale. A census form with only five, rigid racial groups would have worked 500 years ago, but it doesn't now and certainly won't in another 500.

Joe Rodriguez is a columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News. He is not related to the girl in the photograph that accompanies this column.

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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WILKES-BARRE (PA.) TIMES LEADER/KRT

Jessica Rodriguez, 15, dances with her little, Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., at the reception for her Quinceanera, a traditional Hispanic coming-of-age ceremony and party, Oct. 18 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Jessica's mom, Amy, celebrated her Quinceanera in Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, where she grew up.



## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Smoke clears, tobacco lives  
The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

Congress had a golden opportunity to improve Americans' health, cut health-care costs and throw a lasso around a rogue industry.

But that opportunity was flicked out the window when a House-Senate conference committee working on a corporate-tax bill jettisoned a provision to allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the tobacco industry.

Ohio Sen. Mike DeWine, a Republican, and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., had crafted a bipartisan bill that had the support of myriad health groups and even tobacco company Philip Morris.

DeWine promises to be back next year with the same bill and a new strategy. But, he says, FDA regulation won't happen until the public demands it.

Apparently, Americans haven't been clear enough. So, listen up, lawmakers. Here's the scoop, in simple terms so that even those lawmakers who are particularly obtuse can understand: Tobacco products kill. Regulation is needed. ASAP.

Lawsuits court cynicism  
The Daily Sentinel,  
Grand Junction, Colo.

Who will be the big winners in this year's elections? More and more it appears that lawyers with political clients will claim the greatest victories, no matter who wins the ballot tallies.

As stories in this newspaper and others around the country have made evident, battalions of attorneys are moving in like battlefield soldiers, ready to file postelection lawsuits similar to those filed in Florida in 2000.

They will claim all manner of balloting problems — from hanging chads to high-tech hijinks — on behalf of their losing clients, whether they be presidential contenders or those seeking more-modest political offices.

While that may be great news for the legions of lawyers involved in such cases, it will not ultimately benefit the American republic.

It can do nothing but increase voter cynicism and ultimately contribute to the feeling that elections are an insiders' game where winners and losers will be determined in courtrooms long after the ballots are cast.

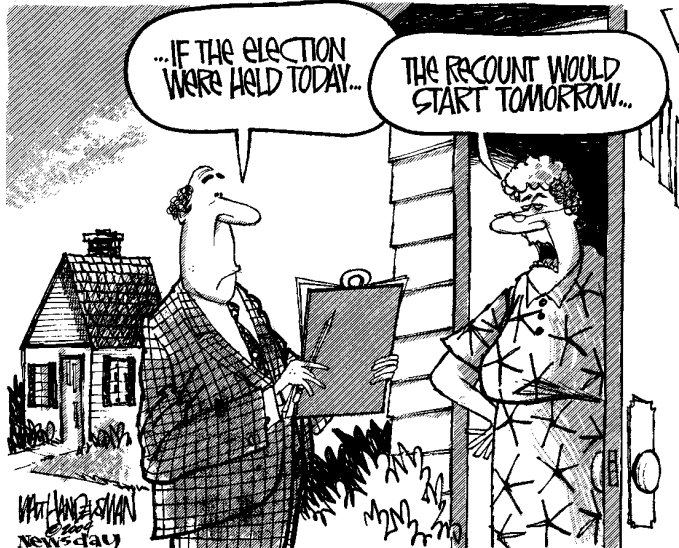
Let Sept. 11 panel prevail  
Chicago Tribune

This month, at the urging of Sept. 11 panel Chairman Thomas Keen and others, the House leaped into the middle of the most dramatic effort in generations to reshape America's intelligence agencies. Top White House officials issued a detailed letter attempting to guide negotiators from the House and Senate who are struggling to reconcile two vastly different versions of legislation inspired by recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission.

There's a blizzard of detail in all this, but at its crux the legislation approved by the Senate hews closest to the recommendations of the Sept. 11 panel and deserves to be favored in the conference committee.

The Senate legislation establishes a strong national intelligence director with full budget authority and significant power in personnel matters....

The House has unnecessarily complicated the bargaining by peppering its bill with an array of law enforcement and immigra-



tion measures that were not envisioned by the Sept. 11 commission....

The Sept. 11 commission has produced some sound ideas for revamping the U.S. intelligence apparatus and moving to enact its most important recommendations. Congress and the president can show that they've absorbed the lessons of the intelligence failures this nation suffered before Sept. 11.

A low point in the Iraq effort  
Los Angeles Times

The confirmation that U.S. forces in Iraq failed to prevent the looting of 380 tons of conventional explosives represents a new chapter for the "just when you thought things could not get much worse" file. Further, the execution-style murder on Oct. 23 of dozens of Iraqis being trained as soldiers, the very men to whom the United States planned to transfer the job of guarding the country, demonstrates an abject failure by Iraqis and occupation officials to learn from past mistakes.

President Bush has repeatedly said his generals have not told him they need more than the 140,000 U.S. troops (currently) in Iraq. But it's now clear that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his Pentagon colleagues should have listened to Gen. Eric Shinseki, then the Army chief of staff, when he warned that "several hundred thousand" troops would be required to win the peace as well as the war.

Instead, Rumsfeld and his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, disparaged Shinseki and shoved him aside....

(Jordanian militant Abu Musab) al-Zarqawi's followers claimed responsibility for the attack on the unarmed army recruits. Rebels dressed as police or soldiers stopped three vehicles, ordered the passengers out and shot them. Iraqi police and military trainees have been targets for months.

The recruits should have been protected by other soldiers or given weapons to defend themselves.

There have been better days in the Iraq war, but not many worse ones.

Money shouldn't drive donors  
The Denver Post

It was in desperation that Bob Hickey listed himself on a commercial Web site four months ago seeking a kidney donor and, probably unintentionally, propelling himself into the medical textbooks. We commend a dying man's ingenuity. But the unprecedented matchup between Hickey and a stranger from Tennessee quite possibly ushers in an era in organ donations that raises a host of legal and ethical concerns.

It marked the first time an organ transplant was brokered by a commercial Internet company. It also launched the nation down a new path of organ donations that at once raises new ethical questions and at the same time gives hope — probably false hope — to the 85,000 Americans currently awaiting organ transplants....

And what about the risks? We would not want to see Hickey's case spur people in need of a quick buck to sell an organ without considering the long-term consequences. "We don't want people jeopardizing their health to benefit financially," said Nikki Wheeler, spokeswoman for the alliance. "In this case, now you have a person who will have potentially bad health long-term."

The biggest problem Wheeler foresees is that sick people could become easy prey for Internet brokers. "They'll do whatever they can to save their lives," she said. "We don't want them taken advantage of."

Neither do we.

Party parity pure poppycock  
Times Union, Albany, N.Y.

It wouldn't be a true down-to-the-wire presidential election without the quixotic candidacy of Ralph Nader, now, would it? Mr. Nader and his handful of followers must be reveling in the news that the race between President Bush and Sen. John Kerry is so close that his scant support

could actually tilt the election in nine of the most competitive states....

Mr. Nader insists that he takes as much support away from Mr. Bush as from Mr. Kerry. Public opinion polls, though, dispute that claim. Some surveys show him taking more than twice as many votes from Mr. Kerry as Mr. Bush....

Where Mr. Nader's analysis falls apart, though, is in his contention that there's no discernible difference between the Democrats and the Republicans. Anyone who believes that would be better off studying up on the events of the past four years than making yet another run for president....

How sad it is to watch a once-respected advocate of the public interest baffle away his own legacy, from constructive change to political mischief.

Rapids rough for amphibians  
The Herald, Rock Hill, S.C.

Miners knew that the atmosphere in the mines was becoming toxic when the canary in the cage died. But the rest of us need to pay attention to equally troubling signals about troubles in the environment.

Take, for example, the recent discovery that male bass in the Potomac River have begun producing eggs. Scientists aren't sure exactly why, but think it might be caused by pollution in the water, such as chicken estrogen left over in poultry manure or perhaps human hormones dumped in the river with processed sewage.

And what about the precipitous decline in the amphibian population across the globe? The first comprehensive world survey of the creatures, which include frogs, toads and salamanders, indicates that up to 122 species have disappeared since 1980 and another 1,900 are in danger of going extinct....

What's important to note, however, is that these delicate creatures, made vulnerable because of permeable skin that is easily affected by changing environmental conditions, are the first victims of environmental abuse.

## 7-Eleven bonus

**MI** ESSEXVILLE — Oh, thank heaven: 7-Eleven employee Erin Kappen got a bonus for having a baby that weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

Kappen cashed in on her son, Parker John VanWormer, who was born Oct. 4. She got a check for \$711 from Garb-Ko Inc., which operates the 7-Eleven store where she has worked part time for 18 months.

Saginaw-based Garb-Ko pays the \$711 bonus to any employee giving birth to a 7-pound, 11-ounce baby. It operates 90 stores in Michigan, nine in Indiana and eight in Ohio.

"It's not something that happens every day, but through the 26 years that I have been with this company, it has happened several times," said Larry Hauck, the company's marketing director.

Kappen, 22, of Bay City, said she hoped to use the gift money to open a bank account for Parker and pay some bills.

"Had no idea they were going to give me a check," said Kappen. "I never knew that they had a program like that."

## Good rain, lots of deer

**TX** COLLEGE STATION — Experts say abundant rain in parts of Texas should make for a good deer season this fall and early winter. Texas Cooperative Extension reports the rain helped thicken the ground cover that provides food and shelter for the animals.

Officials said the deer are looking healthy. Texas is home to approximately 4 million deer, agency officials said.

## Free travel for soldiers

**NE** GRAND ISLAND — A central Nebraska business is offering to pay travel expenses for a Hall County soldier's holiday leave. CBS Insurance will hold a drawing before Thanksgiving from the names of troops serving abroad. The military pays for a soldier on leave to return to home base, but travel home is a personal expense.

## Bobby handles NY crime

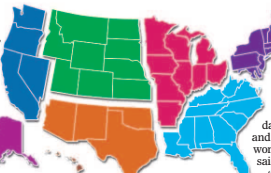
**NY** NEW YORK — An English police officer took a break from his vacation to fight crime and took home kudos from the NYPD's top cop.

Tourist Colin Webber and his wife and fellow bobby, Claire, were shopping in the city's Diamond District when they heard a violent clash inside a jewelry outlet.

Police said they believe two men were arguing over a counterfeit watch when one pulled a knife and stabbed the other man three times in the chest, then smashed a mirror over his head.

When the man with the knife tried to flee, the 6-foot-2 Webber instinctively tackled him and forced him to drop his weapon.

"There was really no time to think," the burly bobby said. "Someone said, 'Grab him,' and I did. ... I just took him down."



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly presented Webber, 37, with an award for his bravery a few hours before he was to board a flight home. The officer, wearing sweat pants and sneakers, accepted with a shrug.

The publicity, he quipped, "will probably cost me a round of beer" when he reports for duty on his regular beat.

After Webber subdued the suspect, friends of the victim began kicking the man in the head. Claire Webber, 38, was credited with keeping them at bay until officers arrived.

The alleged attacker was arrested and charged with attempted murder. The victim was in stable condition at a hospital.

## Milk prices rise

**HI** HILO — The state Board of Agriculture gave its final approval to a proposal to raise the minimum price Big Island dairy farmers are paid for their milk by 25.8 cents per raw gallon.

The minimum, which has stood at \$2.02 since 1991, would rise to \$2.28, if Gov. Linda Lingle gives her final approval after the proposal is reviewed by several state departments, the Department of Agriculture said.

The increase, which would benefit five Big Island dairies, would not regulate the wholesale or retail prices of milk, which are set by a

milk processor and retailers, the department said.

"A cost production study by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture showed that this increase in the minimum price requested by Big Island dairy farmers was justified and appropriate," board chairwoman Sandra Lee Kunimoto said.

"The Big Island is the only island that is self-sufficient in milk and even sends milk to other islands, and it's crucial that we all support 'Island Fresh' milk, including retailers and consumers," she said.

The dairy farmers asked for the rate increase last December, and the board gave its preliminary approval in April. A public hearing on the issue was held Sept. 27.

The dairy farmers have noted their operational costs—including transportation and shipping, fuel, health insurance, workers' compensation, feed, utilities and labor—have risen over the years.

## Secession on ballot

**NJ** VERONA — A referendum on next week's ballot asks voters whether they favor seceding from Essex County. Such a move would require approval by the Legislature, which even township officials call extremely unlikely. Critics say the votes amount to little more than a safety valve to let frustrated property owners vent about soaring property taxes.

## Bath house art

**AR** HOT SPRINGS — The National Park Rotary Club heard a proposal to open a new Hot Springs Museum of Contemporary Art in one of the city's historic bath houses. The proposal includes a goal to collect 500 pieces from the world's top 500 artists. Hot Springs National Park Superintendent Josie Fernandez said she liked the plan, but funding must be secured.

## Fork art goes missing

**ND** GRAND FORKS — It's an Unforgettable crime: Authorities in Grand Forks are searching for a grand fork.

The 6-foot-tall utensil that disappeared over is among about 50 in an "Unforgettable" collection scattered around the city.

Chamber of Commerce President Dan Schenkein says he saw the fork—which was decorated to look like a train—bolted to a special foundation. It was gone when another employee arrived, he said.

The missing fork was designed by artist Kim Dohman as a nod to the Chamber building's former life as a train depot.

"We continually have people coming down here [to see it]," Schenkein said. "It's really a fun community asset, and it's too bad somebody had to spoil it for others."

Schenkein hopes the fork was taken as a random prank and that someone will return it.

Businesses paid \$1,500 to purchase the forks. Most of the money went to benefit the project's sponsors, the Community Violence Intervention Center and a regional family health program.



**Ghoulish scare** An unidentified ghoulish scares Fort Walton Beach Jaycees' Haunted House visitors, front to back, Candace Tilley, Sydney Meldenson, 11, and Nikki Guillot, as they run through the scary room in Mary Esther, Fla.



**Sheep mowers** A herd of grazing sheep are keeping the grass mowed on the capped landfill in Keene, N.H.



**Two of a kind** Janet Hilton, of Panama City Beach, Fla., shows off her pet cockatoo Ze just before she won the pet-owner look-alike category at the Fantasy Fest Pet Masquerade and Parade in Key West, Fla.



## Night shift work

**Crane operator Lloyd Allen is silhouetted against the rising moon 185 feet above the Electric Power Board construction site in Chattanooga, Tenn.**





**Fun in the mud** Michael Penner slides on his back after playing in a mud football game with other kids at his family's farm in Longview, Wash.



**Grossed out** A flopping trout put a fright into the faces of, from left, Alex Schaefer, 4, Annie Temple, 5, and Sam Carroll, 4, as Billie Thompson of the Johnson County Park Police tried to corral the fish at Heritage Park Lake in Overland Park, Kan.



**Angel pooch** Precious, an 18-year-old English mastiff, lies on the sidewalk dressed in an angel costume in Miami Beach, Fla. The dog's owner was handing out flyers for a local costume store.

## Naming rights settlement

**OH** COLUMBUS — SBC Communications agreed to pay about \$1 million for the naming rights to the Ohio State-Michigan football game for the next two years. When the rivals meet for the 101st time on Nov. 20 in Columbus, the matchup will be called the SBC Michigan-Ohio State Classic.

## Murky water is safe

**UT** DRAPER — Draper's water has acquired an odd color, odor and taste since heavy rains began, but health officials say it's still safe to drink. A manager for the company that serves nearly two-thirds of Draper likens the taste to tea made from fallen leaves. He said the coloration problem occurs in the fall when storm water soaks through leaves before entering the drinking water system.

## Baby's parents charged

**TX** HOUSTON — The parents of a 2-month-old boy who died weighing only 5 pounds have been arrested.

Jolene Diana Valencia, 19, and Adrian Castillo, 21, were each charged with injury to a child by omission, said Sgt. Mike Smith of the Harris County Sheriff's Homicide Division. The baby, Saul Castillo, died at a Houston hospital.

Criminal complaints accuse the parents of failing to provide adequate food and medical care.

The couple took the infant to Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital at about 3 a.m. after finding him unresponsive and discolored at their apartment, Smith said. The parents, who said that the child had been eating, could not provide a valid explanation for the child's weight.

Growth charts showed the baby should have weighed 9 pounds, Smith said.

Doctors at the hospital, where the baby had been born premature, were unable to revive him, Smith said.

Besides the baby's emaciated state, there were no other obvious injuries to his body, authorities said.

Two other children in the family's home, 1- and 2-year-old boys, appeared to be in good condition and were taken into custody by Child Protective Services, a spokeswoman for the agency said.

Castillo's bail was set at \$50,000, and Valencia's is set at \$30,000.

## Mentally ill man can't vote

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY — A federal judge declined to allow a mentally ill man to vote in next week's election but agreed to hear his challenge later to a Missouri law that denies voting rights to some who are mentally ill.

U.S. District Judge Ortzie Smith said presuming the man is competent to vote is risky and "any outcome that permits a potentially invalid ballot to be cast should be avoided."

Steven Prye said he moved to St. Louis from Illinois earlier this year and tried to register to vote, but wasn't allowed because he has a

court-appointed guardian in Illinois. A court is considering whether to appoint one for him in Missouri.

Under the Missouri Constitution and state law, those who have a guardian because of "mental incapacity" cannot vote and can face criminal charges if they do.

The suit alleges the Missouri election law violates the U.S. Constitution's due process and equal protection clauses and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

According to the lawsuit, the 51-year-old Prye is a former law professor with schizophrenia disorder who has had a guardian since December 2003. The suit says Prye taught at Vermont Law School and the University of Illinois Law School. The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and the American Civil Liberties Union are helping represent Prye.

The Bazelon Center said the suit could have national implications.

## State logo, slogan vote

**KY** FRANKFORT — Kentucky's new logo and slogan will be decided by a public vote, and it could be a close horse race.

That's because three of the four choices involve images of horses: "Kentucky: Unbridled Spirit," "Kentucky: Limitless," and "Kentucky: Where Legends Are Born." The only non-equine choice is "Kentucky: Make History."

Gov. Ernie Fletcher announced that people will be able to vote over the Internet, through the mail or in person at welcome centers, resort parks and tourist attractions around the state.

Each week, the candidate with the least amount of votes will be eliminated, until the final one is decided the day before Thanksgiving. The contest is open to residents and nonresidents alike.

## City contract corruption

**CT** STAMFORD — State investigators probing possible corruption are looking into city contracts and scrutinizing renovation work at the mayor's home. The AP has learned.

Investigators with the Chief State's Attorney's office have requested details on city and school contracts dating back five years, according to sources familiar with the investigation, which spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The inquiry involved about 200 requests issued by the city for proposals, according to Ben Barnes, the city's director of administration.

The sources said investigators are also looking into contracts for the management of a city-owned nursing home and the operation of a cafeteria in a government building — projects for which Republicans claim the winning bidders contributed to Mayor Daniel Malloy's upcoming Democratic gubernatorial campaign.

Malloy, 49, who is running for governor in 2006, asked city officials earlier this month to seek new bids on those contracts.

Malloy — the city's longest serving mayor, since 1995 — has denied any wrongdoing and said he welcomes the inquiry.

Stories and photos from wire services

## Sunday Horoscope

The Gemini moon is a mischievous lunar aspect that loves tricks, treats, disguises and scary thrills! Even if you weren't planning on acknowledging this Halloween by dressing up as somebody else, you could change your mind at the last minute. There's big fun to be had exploring your alter ego, and you could learn something about yourself.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 31).** You face the year with great anticipation — you sense that this is going to be something special, and you're right. Go with the odd turns this month. Romance is part of the equation, and you're ready to do it differently.

You take pride in your work and are paid especially well for it in December and February. Love signs are Capricorn and Pisces.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** What's scariest is not knowing if you're fully prepared. This morning feels like those school dreams where you show up in various stages of undress and don't know what's going on. You know more than you think you do.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You won't be fooled by false stories, but loved ones armed with an overload of information and conviction could spook you into doing something you didn't want to do. Stay strong.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The fact is, you're attracted to the dark and ghoulish, especially if it also ties into something forbidden! Because you're not ashamed of being imperfect, some people find you irresistible. You could even meet your match tonight.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22).** You certainly don't deserve to be the target of trickery, but because you're feeling so glib, you could encourage it anyway. Be on guard! It's a creative exercise to consider who your opposite might be.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're ready for treats, expecting them really, which could make people less anxious to deliver. When you lower your expectations, your loved ones

surprise you. Detach yourself from the outcome, and do act out of sheer enjoyment.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Fear is the enemy in all areas of your life. The monstrous truth will be featured. Don't worry — it's only a monster in your own mind, much like an 8-year-old dressed up at your door begging for candy.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** What you do for thrills and chills, others wouldn't dream of doing! It's your daring that makes you unique. But be careful not to lose sight of where others are coming from. Try and step out of your own point of view before acting.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You'll be blowing things out of proportion in your mind, but that's half the fun. Imaginings could make you scream, but if you knew the reality, you'd only be a little jump. Don't be shy tonight.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** This day plays like a movie flashback. There are numerous opportunities to engage in past horrors, but you choose to put them behind you instead — how empowering! Tonight is weirdly romantic.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You think you know what's best for all concerned, and indeed you do. But that doesn't mean they'll follow. In the Halloween spirit, you might employ a little witchy charm, a secret bit of mental hocus-pocus to persuade your subject.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Half the fun will be in pretending, so let your creativity loose, and create scenarios that are fun for you! The otherworldly qualities of the evening help it live up to all its creepy potential! Boo!

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There are the ghosts walking around in household bedding with eyeholes cut out, and there are the ghosts of your past that haunt you day in and day out. Be kind to both. The first just want candy, and the others are part of you.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



## Monetary successes allow jealousy to creep into family

**Dear Abby:** I have been married to "Sam" for 20 years.

He is a wonderful husband and provider. When I married Sam, we had nothing; now we have a home and rental properties.

My family seems to be jealous of the financial success we have achieved. My siblings make snide comments and have pulled away.

It came to a head the other night when my youngest sister announced to the family that I had gone online and anonymously threatened her family. Abby, I have never been anything but kind to them. They have an open invitation to visit our home and swim, and I have even bought her children clothing and shoes when she was unable to.

I don't understand this, and I'm very hurt. Please help me to put this in perspective, because I am fully aware that money can't buy happiness — happiness comes from family and loved ones.

**—Wrongly Accused in Arkansas**

**Dear Wrongly Accused:** Your sister may be jealous, may have mental problems — or may just have a need to be the center of attention. Since you have been

generous with her, it may be time to realize that loving relationships are reciprocal. If your relatives are put off by what you and your husband have accomplished, the problem is really theirs, and you can't fix it.

**P.S.** If your sister did, in fact, receive a threatening e-mail, rather than accusing you, she should have informed the police.

**Dear Abby:** I am 16 and have just started my junior year in high school. Last spring, I started dating "Rick," a guy in my class. After six weeks, he dropped me and started dating a popular girl. He never said it was over or gave me a reason for dumping me. He just stopped calling, wouldn't talk to me and wouldn't answer my phone calls. I was devastated.

Now that school has started again, I see Rick in the halls. I told him I still love him and would do anything to get back the way we were, and he was very rude. I know I need to move on, but I can't get him out of my heart.

Please help.

**—Stuck in St. Louis**

**Dear Stuck:** Part of your prob-

lem may be that you didn't have "closure" when the relationship with Rick was over. For him to have dropped you the way he did was cruel.

Perhaps this will help you: I recently attended a conference where a man approached me and stuck out his hand. He said he wanted to thank me for some advice I had given him years ago. Like you, he was having difficulty moving on after a romance had ended. At the time, I told him that he should pretend that his love object had tragically dropped dead. (It happens!) I told him that although the person might still be alive, their romance WAS dead, and so were any illusions he had about the person. I also advised him that if he began to obsess again, he should remind himself out loud that he was only playing "old tapes" in his head and to change the channel.

He told me that my advice hadn't been easy to follow, but it had worked for him then and several times subsequently. (I have used the technique myself, and it worked for me.) Give it a try.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.abbycandor.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

## Woman must open her eyes to see relationship is over

**Dear Annie:** I have been in a relationship with "Bob" for seven years, minus a two-year separation. When we got back together, he made comments like, "This time I'm gonna make it work," leading me to believe we had a future together.

A few months ago, I discovered that Bob has been sending expensive presents (more expensive than what he gives me) to his ex-girlfriend, who moved to another state 14 years ago. When I asked him about it, he confessed that he hopes eventually to join her there so they can start a life together.

I know I should have broken up with him right then, but I didn't, because, frankly, I had nothing else going on in my life. Now Bob is planning to take a week's vacation to the ex's town to look at some property. He will be staying at her house.

Bob doesn't have enough money for a down payment, so I think the property thing is just an excuse to see his ex-girlfriend. Bob says he won't be having sex with her. She's a young son, and he won't permit Bob to sleep in her bedroom. (Notice he didn't say it's because

he wants to remain faithful to me.) My question is, am I being unreasonable to be upset about this vacation? I told Bob that if he goes, our relationship is over, and he can't understand why. What is your opinion of this situation?

**Steady in Boston**  
**Dear Boston:** You must be joking. Bob has made it clear that he wants a future with his ex-girlfriend, and now he is spending a week in her house and possibly looking to invest in a piece of property near her. Your relationship is toast, kiddo, but you keep scraping off the charred, expecting to find something worth keeping. Wish him well and let him go.

**Dear Annie:** I am having a problem with friends of over 50 years.

"George" and "Helen" recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife and I sent a beautiful card, congratulating them on their great achievement, and we also left a nice message on their answering machine.

A week later, Helen called my

wife to say she was very hurt because we "didn't even have the decency to invite them over for a cup of coffee to honor the occasion." They haven't spoken to us since.

My wife is crushed, but I told her not to feel guilty. It was their anniversary, and they should have invited us over to their house for coffee, a 50th anniversary extra. Am I right or wrong? Either way, our friendship is over.

**—Old Friend in Springfield, Ill.**

**Dear Springfield:** How sad. While you were under no obligation to take George and Helen out for coffee, a 50th anniversary is quite a milestone. The card and phone message were sufficient for conveying your good wishes, but as longtime close friends, it would have been a nice gesture to do something extra. If you want to salvage the friendship, call and apologize for not making more out of such an important occasion, and invite them for dinner. If they refuse, you are now worse off.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sue Sullivan, editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@earthlink.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@earthlink.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## 'Ballot' has long history

The approach of another presidential election has many wondering about the word "ballot." I figure it can't be a very old word, since voting for one's leader is a relatively speaking, a relatively recent development (isn't it?). So you tell me about its origins?

You might be surprised to learn that the earliest evidence in English for "ballot" dates all the way back to 1549. "Ballot" derives ultimately from a word of Celtic origin meaning "ball."

Small balls, variously marked or colored, have been used as a means for casting a secret vote since ancient times. For example, in ancient Greece balls were used in the determination of criminal matters.

Jurors voted with one kind of ball for acquittal and another for condemnation. Even today, some private clubs accept or reject candidates for membership on the basis of a vote taken with white and black balls, hence our word "blackball."

In Renaissance Venice, which was actually a republic and had been one since the 11th century, this same kind of secret vote was used. A Venetian, being Italian, called the ball he used to designate a "ballotta," or "little ball."

The English borrowed Italian "ballotta" and shortened it to "ballot," using it to designate a ball or any other object, such as a ticket or piece of paper, used in casting a secret vote.







Tom McGannon poses in his Royal Oak, Mich., front yard decked out in Halloween decor Oct. 19. Plenty of people are joining McGannon in Halloween decorating — inside and outside the home — making it the second-largest decorating holiday of the year behind the Christmas season.

## Much more than pumpkins Halloween decorating turns into high-tech business

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As a child, Tom McGannon always had the most decorated house on the block during the Halloween season. At 36, he still does, but the decorations are more high-tech.

McGannon's bag of tricks now includes smoking graveyard scenes with strobe lighting. He's also thinking about buying a hologram machine that projects scary images. And where will McGannon be on Halloween night? "On the roof, pulling thick fishing lines that move the mannequins," such as spiders and skeletons, the Royal Oak, Mich., resident said.

Plenty of people are joining McGannon in the fun of Halloween decorating inside and outside the home, making it the second-largest decorating holiday after the Christmas and Hanukkah season. The trend has been a boon to small businesses and big discounters, who have expanded their Halloween merchandise way beyond ceramic pumpkins and stuffed scarecrows.

Now, they're selling high-tech wizardry such as voice-activated skeletons, smog machines and downright gory bleeding goblines.

"With Halloween, you can get a little funky," said Sharon Weber, a spokeswoman at Wal-Mart Stores Inc. "We keep adding more to meet the needs of our customers."

Popular items at Wal-Mart include six-foot-tall inflatable purple spiders and eight-foot-tall inflatable jack-o-lanterns. The discount store also has skeletons and monsters that sing and dance to popular tunes as "Born to Be Wild," "Evil Ways" and "Super Freak."

It gets grosser at Party City Corp., a 500-store chain based in Rockaway, N.J., whose Halloween

*Halloween  
decorating  
gives people a  
lift and also  
helps them  
connect with  
one another,  
experts say.*

merchandise includes a fake head with a wandering eyeball that follows people as they pass by.

With Halloween decorating now a feature at mass marketers, these creepy accessories have come down in price over the past few years, with many costing under \$60. But for those who aren't scared about spending, iParty Inc., a 40-store chain based in Dedham, Mass., has a shivering butler mannequin that retails for \$399, and Chicago-based Architectural Artifacts rents or sells gothic decor that runs into the thousands of dollars.

Halloween has been popular with adults and children for decades, but the decorating business — particularly the higher end — has burgeoned in the past few years. Architectural Artifacts said its clients had been limited to the Hollywood community, but now the company is being sought after by consumers for their own personal use.

"Three years ago, the Halloween business was nonexistent," said Stuart Grammen, the company's president.

According to Unity Marketing, a New York-based marketing consulting firm, consumers are estimated to spend \$1.54 billion on Halloween decorations this year, accounting for about 10 percent of the projected \$14.72 billion overall seasonal decor business.

That's up 5.5 percent from 2003.

Halloween decorating gives people a lift and also helps them connect with one another, a comforting trend during uncertain times, marketing experts say.

"This is all being driven by consumers," said Pam Danziger, Unity Marketing's president. "It's all about turning around, and making yourselves known to your neighbors."

SEE DECORATIONS ON PAGE 29

## Tricare tips highlight plan differences

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week Cmdr. Michel introduced Tricare.

Cmdr. Michel continued: "Tricare has two basic plan types: Tricare Prime and Tricare Stan-

dard. "Most active-duty members and their families use Tricare Prime because it has no enrollment fees or deductibles, and even better, no claims to file. The downside is Tricare Prime is not available everywhere and they require that you go to your PCM first for any treatment.

"Tricare Prime is broken into regions all over the world and is portable from region to region."

"Tricare Standard has the larger selection of medical providers because you can use non-military doctors, but has a yearly deductible and you may need to file your claims.

"Verify your Tricare coverage and DEERS report every year or every time you move to avoid being caught in an administrative mistake.

"Wherever you go for medical treatment in the Tricare system, there is a priority system for providing care. Servicemembers are treated first, followed by families, and then retirees and their families.

"You are required to go through the military health system first, and if there aren't any Tricare supported facilities available, you'll need a non-availability statement, or NAS, from your PCM before going to a doctor outside the plan.

"You can find a list of approved civilian providers located at <http://tricare.osd.mil>. I must warn you that without an NAS, you'll normally pick up the entire medical cost.

"Bottom line: Keep track of your permissions and expenses."

"What about dental care?" a young woman asked. "Does Tricare cover dental treatments?"

"No," Michel replied. "Ser-

vicemembers receive free dental care through military dentists — and they must visit them regularly. Military families use inexpensive dental insurance through United Concordia located at [www.uecd.com](http://www.uecd.com).

"There are two dental plans: single and family.

"The single plan covers only one family member and costs \$9.07 per month in 2004; the family plan covers multiple family members and is \$22.66 per month in 2004.

"Be aware there is a cap on how much your insurance premiums will cover — \$1,200 per year on any enrollment for non-orthodontic services. Also, certain preventive or diagnostic treatments are not applied to this cap, but that's for a more advanced presentation. "Are there any questions?"

Money U.



Ralph Nelson

Several people in the audience were rapidly scribbling down notes, it was just sitting there trying to figure out why I didn't learn about this military medical stuff earlier because it was important and serious.

The commander continued, "If there are no other questions, thank you. I'll leave some Tricare information pamphlets with your president."

The audience began to clap. Evelyn thanked the commander and helped her gather her materials.

After the commander left, Evelyn concluded the meeting.

"Before we finish, let me remind you we need volunteers to talk to Sammy about our annual 4th of July party."

Evelyn adjourned the meeting, and we all gathered for a little while for the after-meeting social.

Next week Susie and Maggie decide to go in shape.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to: Master Plan Inc., 500 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20849 or online at [www.savvysailor.com](http://www.savvysailor.com). This article is written and the book is sold with the understanding that neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisors. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using any advice or information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: [finance@strsipes.odm.mil](mailto:finance@strsipes.odm.mil)













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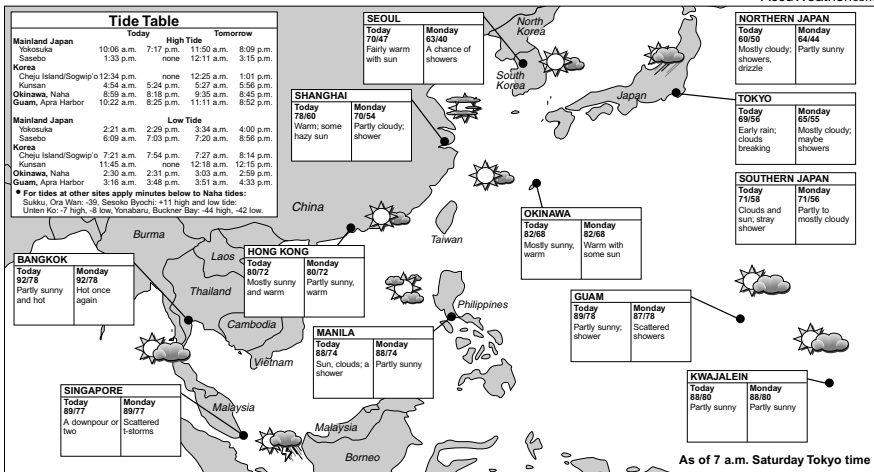
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# The Pacific Forecast

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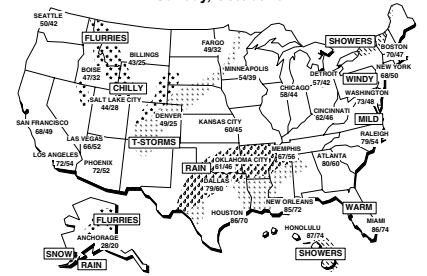
## Extended Forecasts

<b>TOKYO</b> Tuesday: Rain, high 64, low 57. Wednesday: Thunderstorms, high 71, low 61.	<b>KADENA</b> Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 82, low 70. Wednesday: Partly sunny, high 80, low 70.	<b>SEoul</b> Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 61, low 37. Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 57, low 40.	<b>MANILA</b> Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 72. Wednesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 72.	<b>HAGATNA</b> Tuesday: Showers, high 89, low 78. Wednesday: Showers, high 87, low 78.
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## Friday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	60/35	Los Angeles	72/54
Amarillo	69/38	Little Rock	85/62
Anchorage	37/29	Louisville	80/66
Ashville	71/55	Miami	85/72
Baltimore	62/54	Milwaukee	74/54
Birmingham	86/65	Nashville	82/64
Bismarck	54/38	New York	59/52
Boise	52/38	Omaha	80/46
Boston	58/46	Orlando	85/66
Brownsville	92/74	Philadelphia	62/54
Buffalo	62/57	Phoenix	72/52
Burlington	53/42	Pittsburgh	68/59
Charleston, SC	74/60	Portland, OR	56/48
Charlotte	64/58	Portland, ME	54/37
Chicago	69/61	Salt Lake City	47/33
Columbus, OH	72/62	St. Louis	85/56
Duluth	60/46	San Antonio	88/71
El Paso	71/44	San Diego	68/54
Hartford	57/46	San Juan	90/76
Helena	50/31	Tampa	87/68
Indianapolis	78/61	Tulsa	81/52
Jacksonville	81/66	Washington	62/55
Kansas City	76/51	Wichita	77/46

## Sunday, October 31



Richard S. Johnson	38-36-74	+3
Niclas Fasth	38-36-74	+3
J.J. Henry	37-37-74	+3

Steve Allan	38-36-74	+3
Heath Slocum	39-35-74	+3

Greg Chalmers	37-37-74	+3
Peter Lonard	37-37-74	+3
Esteban Toledo	37-37-74	+3
Lucas Glover	36-38-74	+3

**CJ Nine Bridges Classic**  
 Friday  
 At Nine Bridges Club Course

New England at Pittsburgh  
 San Francisco at Chicago  
 Open: Tampa Bay, St. Louis, New Orleans, Colorado at Los Angeles

Jeju, South Korea			
Purse: \$1.35 million			
Yardage: 5,764; Par: 72			
First Round			
a-amateur			
Carin Koch	35-31--66	-6	
Grace Park	33-33--66	-6	
Jill McGill	32-35--67	-5	

At CK Sportcenter Kockelsheuer  
Luxembourg

Karen Stupples	35-32-67	-5
Young-A Yang	33-35-68	-4
Lorena Ochoa	37-31-68	-4
Ju Mi Kim	34-34-68	-4
Shi Hyun Ahn	36-32-68	-4

Rank	Player	Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Turnovers	Minutes	Field Goals	Free Throws	Technical Fouls	Flagrant Fouls
1	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
2	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
3	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
4	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
5	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
6	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
7	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
8	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
9	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
10	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
11	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
12	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
13	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
14	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
15	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
16	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
17	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
18	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
19	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
20	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
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28	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
29	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
30	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
31	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
32	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
33	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0
34	Shane Larkin	Michigan State	18	5	4	2	1	3	28	7-12	2-3	0	0

6-1	Seol-An Jeon	36-34-70	-2
Tatiana	Dorothy Delasin	35-35-70	-2
	Catriona Matthew	34-36-70	-2
	Angela Stanford	33-37-70	-2
	Jeong Jang	37-33-70	-2
	Soo-Yun Kang	33-38-71	-1
	Becky Mornap	35-36-71	-1

Kate Golden	35-36-71	-1
Jamie Hullett	36-35-71	-1

Na Ri Kim	36-35-71	-1
Grace Lee	36-35-71	-1
a-Hee Young Park	37-34-71	-1
a-Jane Park	36-35-71	-1
Laura Davies	37-34-71	-1
Laura Diaz	36-35-71	-1
Maura-Mae Moon	36-35-71	-1

No. 11 Tennessee (6-1) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.	Houston	3	4	.429	2½		First Round	
	New Orleans	3	4	.429	2½	Jeff Sluman		31-31-

-64	-7	Annika Sorenstam	35-36-71	-1
-64	-7	Kelli Kuehne	38-34-72	E
-64	-7	Ashli Bunch	36-36-72	E
-65	-6	Jean Bartholomew	36-36-72	E
-65	-6	So Hee Kim	34-38-72	E

Memphis, Nov. 4.	Utah	3	4	.429	3	Jonathan Byrd	35-31-
No. 15 West Virginia (6-1) did not play.	Seattle	1	6	.143	5	Jay Haas	36-31-

-67	-4	Hee-Won Han	36-36-72	E
-67	-4	Se Ri Pak	37-35-72	E
-67	-4	Rachel Teske	37-35-72	E
-68	-3			
-68	-3			

No. 18 Boise State (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Hawaii, Friday.  
No. 10 SMU (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Saturday.

**Thursday's transactions**

**BASEBALL**  
**American League**

No. 22 Virginia Tech (6-2) beat Georgia Tech 34-20. Next: at North Carolina, Nov. 6	Portland 97, Toronto 95 Golden State 82, L.A. Clippers 78	Tom Byrum Duffy Waldorf	37-31- 35-34
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**CLEVELAND INDIANS**—Agreed to terms

play. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Nov. 6.	Denver 93, Houston 88	Brian Bateman	35-34-
	Dallas 112, Sacramento 93	Retief Goosen	35-34-

**CHICAGO CUBS**—Declined to exercise their 2005 contract options on OF Moises Alou

Virginia Tech	0 7 2 25-34	Detroit at Minnesota	Bob Estes	35-35
Georgia Tech	0 17 0 3-20	New Orleans at San Antonio	Chad Campbell	38-32
		Portland at Phoenix	Barry Bostwick	36-34

**HOUSTON ASTROS**—Exercised their 2005 contract option on OF Craig Biggio. Declined to exercise their 2005 contract option on INF

GT—FG Bell 46, :35.	<b>Tennis</b>	Skip Kendall	34-36—
		Hidemichi Tanaka	33-37—

**ATLANTA HAWKS**—Waived F Lonny Baxter and F Donnell Harvey.  
**BOSTON CELTICS**—Exercised their 2005 contract option on G Jiri Welsch.

<p>V1—Royal 60 pass from Kandari (Kandari pass to Johnson), 5:28.</p> <p>V2—Moran 51 pass from Randall (Dane</p>	<p><b>Purse: \$1.255 million (Intl. Series)</b>  <b>Surface: Camel-Indoor</b></p>	<p>Ryan Palmer 37-33          Robert Allenby 34-36</p>
--	---	--

-70 -1 tirement of G Avery Johnson and named him  
-70 -1 assistant coach.  
-71 E **GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS**—Waived G  
-71 E Brandon Armstrong.  
-71 E **HOUSTON ROCKETS**—Waived G Derrick

First downs	17	19	hrach, Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-6 (4).	Pat Perez	37-34
Rushes-yards	33-142	40-166	Jiri Novak, Czech Republic, def. Tim Hen-	Justin Leonard	37-34
				Loren Roberts	37-34

**LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS**—Waived G Trajan Langdon, F Kaniel Dickens and F Terence

Penalties-Yards	10-108	8-65	Hal Sutton	37-34
Time of Possession	28:13	31:47	Phil Mickelson	36-35

-71 E Adams, F Joaquim Hawkins and C Jehani  
-71 E McCoy.  
-71 E **MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES**—Waived G  
-71 E Anthony Goldwire and F Kasib Powell.  
+1 **NEW ORLEANS HORNETS**—Waived F Trem-  
-72 +1  
+1

18-31-1-304, Georgia Tech, Ball 14-29-2-179.	Andre Agassi (1), United States, def.	Jay Williamson	36-36
Receiving-Virginia Tech, Clowdus 4-55	Fernando Verduco (8), Spain 7-6 (4) 6-3	Stewart Cink	36-36

-72 +1 **SAN ANTONIO SPURS**—Waived C Ruben  
-72 +1 Bountje Bountje.  
-72 +1 **SEATTLE SUPERSONICS**—Waived G Mateen  
-72 +1 Cleaves and G Galen Young.  
-72 +1 **FOOTBALL**

<b>Pro soccer</b>	Pavel (3), Romania, 6-3, 7-5 (4).	Jeri Brenaut Pat Bates Jim Furuk	36-36 36-36 37-35
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**GREEN BAY PACKERS**—Re-signed S Julius Curry to the practice squad. Placed S Wendell Williams on injured reserve.

**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS**—Signed CB Mike

(Two-leg Aggregate Score Series) Eastern Conference	Purse: \$1 million (Intl. Series) Surface: Carpet-Indoor	Chris Smith K.J. Choi	37-36- 39-34-
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**NCAA**—Announced Fairleigh Dickinson, California, Northeastern, Northern Iowa, Radford, Tennessee-Chattanooga and Western Kentucky received certification status.

New England at Columbus	Sahin (1), Russia, 6-4, 6-1.	Cliff Kresge	40-33
<b>D.C. United vs. MetroStars</b>	Karol Beck, Slovakia, def. Cyril Saulnier,	Tom Carter	38-35

**WINTHROP**—Promoted Kyle DiEduardo to full-time assistant baseball coach.

# No. 22 Va. Tech rallies past Georgia Tech

## 25-point fourth quarter keeps Hokies in running for ACC championship



Virginia Tech wide receiver Josh Morgan heads for the go-ahead touchdown on a 51-yard pass from Bryan Randall on Thursday night. Virginia Tech won 34-20.

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — If Virginia Tech goes on to win the Atlantic Coast Conference, remember the last 5½ minutes at Georgia Tech.

For most of the game, the Hokies couldn't do anything right.

Then, in a stunning turnaround, they could do no wrong.

Bryan Randall threw two long touchdown passes and Roland Minor finished off the Yellow Jackets with a 64-yard interception return, rallying No. 22 Virginia Tech to a wild 34-20 victory Thursday night.

For the Hokies (6-2, 3-1 ACC), this was a crucial victory. They remained one game behind Miami in the loss column, with a season-ending game against the Hurricanes at the Orange Bowl.

"This is one of those wins that is great for your football program," coach Frank Beamer said. "I hope we build on it. The way we did it, the way we hung in there, we never gave up."

Randall passed for 304 yards, also hooking up with David Clowney on a 34-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

Randall really shined at the end.

He threw an 80-yard scoring pass to Eddie Royal with 5:28 remaining, then completed a desperation pass for the tying two-point conversion.

"When we tied it, we knew we had the momentum," Randall said.

"We didn't think our defense would give up any more points."

Georgia Tech's did. On the Hokies' next series, Randall ran for 32 yards, then connected with Josh Morgan for a 51-yard TD with 3:10 remaining.

Minor, a redshirt freshman, intercepted two passes by Reggie Ball in the final 2½ minutes, returning the second for the touchdown that capped a 25-point fourth quarter by the Hokies.

Georgia Tech (4-3, 3-3) scored two touchdowns less than a minute apart in the second quarter for a 14-0 lead. But the Yellow Jackets couldn't hold it, their highly ranked defense falling apart in the final period.

After giving up a total of 265 yards in its two previous games, the Yellow Jackets were burned for 446 yards in this one.

"It hurts to let one get away like this, where we thought we were in pretty good shape going into the fourth quarter," coach Chan

Gailey said. "We gave up some big plays and just couldn't sustain anything offensively."

Randall completed 18 of 31 passes and also played a big role in the running game, accounting for 64 yards on nine carries.

Georgia Tech was still looking good after Travis Bell kicked his second field goal, a 34-yarder with 5:44 remaining for a 20-12 lead.

"Things were going wrong," Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer said. "It looked like every time things were turning around for us, we did something else."

But the Hokies managed to survive on a foggy, wacky night in downtown Atlanta. The teams combined for seven turnovers, 173 yards in penalties and plenty of head-scratching plays.

Ball inexplicably ran out of the back of the end zone in the third quarter to give Virginia Tech a safety. The Hokies had to settle for a field goal early in the fourth after having first and goal inside the Georgia Tech 1.

In the first half, the teams spent plenty of time giving each other the ball.

Randall fumbled deep in Georgia Tech territory, while Georgia Tech's star running back, P.J.

Daniels, lost the ball twice on the Hokies side of the field.

After Daniels' second fumble, Randall gave the ball right back with an ill-advised pass over the middle that was picked off by Butler and returned to the Hokies 39.

Finally, someone took advantage. Ball threw a 27-yard pass to Nate Curry, then hooked up with Calvin Johnson in the back of the end zone for a 9-yard touchdown.

Virginia Tech couldn't even get its offense back on the field.

On the ensuing kickoff, Royal was hit from behind and fumbled, with Georgia Tech's Jamal Lewis recovering at the Hokies 28.

Ball completed a 15-yard pass to Darius Williams, then Daniels redeemed himself for the fumbles with a 13-scoring run that made it 14-0. The TDs came just 46 seconds apart.

Bell's 46-yard field goal with 35 seconds left in the first half sent Georgia Tech to the locker room with a 17-7 lead.

"To come back after that, boy, it took some big-time players," Beamer said.

No one was bigger than Randall, who called it "one of the best moments of my career."

And one that might be worth remembering at the end of the season.

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# Mourning plays for first time since Dec. kidney transplant

BY TOM CANAVAN  
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Alonzo Mourning's first game back after a kidney transplant less than a year ago was a lot like the other 600-plus games in his NBA career.

"The only thing I can tell you is I felt his presence," Philadelphia 76ers center Samual Dalembert said. "I got a couple of blows to my mouth. It's going to be hard for me to eat tonight."

Showing remarkable endurance and strength in his first NBA game since getting a new kidney on Dec. 19, Mourning had 12 points and five rebounds in leading the New Jersey Nets to a 96-94 preseason victory over the 76ers on Thursday night.

Mourning ran the court well, shot well, rebounded and was a physical presence in the paint, giving the Nets a boost less than a week before their season opener against Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat.

And Mourning appeared to be having fun, joking with Sixers guard Allen Iverson after being called for an offensive foul. "I have been playing this game for over 20 years," a matter-of-fact Mourning said after the game. "It's just like riding a bike, you never forget. If you



**New Jersey's Alonzo Mourning (33) had 12 points and five rebounds Thursday in the Nets' 96-94 exhibition victory over the Philadelphia 76ers. It was Mourning's first game since receiving a new kidney on Dec. 19, 2003.**

haven't ridden one in three years, they throw one in front of you, you know what to do with it."

The 34-year-old Mourning showed what he meant just seconds after peeling off his sweat pants and reporting into the game with 6:15 left in the first quarter.

Mourning ran a pick-and-roll with Richard Jefferson, and it left him wide open near the foul line. Jefferson gave him the ball and Mourning swished a jumper.

The fans in sparsely filled Continental Airlines Arena, who had

given Mourning a standing ovation when he entered the game, cheered even more.

Mourning was supposed to play eight to 10 minutes, but he remarkably almost doubled that. Coach Lawrence Frank even asked him at one point in the second quarter if he was OK. Mourning smiled and said, "Yes."

Jefferson, who played in each quarter, fouled out on a charging call with 7:50 left in the game. The 12-year-veteran was 3-for-5 from the field and 6-for-10 from the line.

"I wasn't thinking of an individual type of satisfaction," Mourning said. "I do know a year ago playing preseason games was physically more of a struggle, and you don't realize that until now. Back then, I had learned to deal with fatigue."

Mourning, who got a new kidney from a cousin in December, said it is working perfectly and he is feeling much better.

"As far as my overall conditioning, it does need to be a little better," Mourning said. "At the same time, I think my recovery is doing a lot better because I have a new organ that is doing its job. That makes a world of difference."

Mourning said the only thing that will prevent him from playing is if his doctors tell him to stop or his body rejects his new kidney.

# Mystics' Houdsclaw battling depression

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mystics star Chamique Houdsclaw says she left the team in the middle of the WNBA season because of depression.

Houdsclaw, then the league's second-leading scorer, stopped playing for the Mystics in July to deal with an undisclosed medical issue. She felt afraid and ashamed to discuss what was wrong with her, she told The Washington Post in her first interview since her departure.

"Depression, people just don't realize how it can take over your mind," said Houdsclaw, the WNBA's No. 1 overall pick in 1999. "Yes" was walking around and looked fine."

She has been under a psychiatrist's care since becoming increasingly withdrawn, alienated from teammates and family and even her oldest confidantes, she said. She changed her cell phone number so that Washington general manager Pat Summitt, her former coach at Tennessee, couldn't reach her.

"I just kind of had to break away from all that," said Houdsclaw, who added that she slept a lot. "I was just doing my own

thing, just living without all of the expectations."

The Mystics went on an improbable playoff run in her absence, winning five of their last six regular-season games before losing to Connecticut in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Houdsclaw said she never watched her teammates or any other sports on TV. She sat on the couch in her apartment just a block from the MCI Center.

"Everything was negative," she said. "Dark."

One Mystics fan confronted her in public about her absence, she said.

A passing motorist rolled down his window and began berating her, telling her, "You need to get it together! You need to get back on the court!"

Houdsclaw responded angrily. "Do you know me?" she shouted. "You don't know me!"

Houdsclaw missed seven of the Mystics' final eight games. The forward refused to discuss the reason for her absence, other than to rule out court, pregnancy and drug addiction.

In a statement issued last month by the team, Houdsclaw said her condition is not life-threatening or career-threatening.

# Cal not spending time calculating BCS chances

With four favorable matchups remaining, first Rose Bowl in 45 years among the possibilities for No. 7 Golden Bears

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Though they attend one of the nation's most prestigious public universities, don't ask California's football players to decipher their chances of playing in a Bowl Championship Series game.

"I think you have to go to grad school for that," defensive end Tom Sverchek said. "We're not going to even try. If we get too caught up in looking ahead to January and lose right now, it won't matter."

The seventh-ranked Golden Bears (5-1, 3-1 Pac-10) still have

plenty of work to do. But after years of mediocrity and turmoil at Cal, it's been hoped that to avoid thoughts of the school's first New Year's Day bowl since the 1991 season — particularly a chance at Cal's first trip to the Rose Bowl in 45 years.

Starting in Saturday night's meeting with No. 20 Arizona State, Cal finishes its conference schedule with three home games and a trip to lowly Washington. The Bears should be a heavy favorite in all four, as well as their hurricane-postponed trip to Southern Mississippi in December.

They're eighth in the BCS rank-

ings, though those numbers won't mean much until the season ends. If Southern California also wins out and reaches the national title game, the Bears expect to have a clear shot at the Rose Bowl — at least they hope so.

Even with five season-ending victories, the Bears don't know whether they'll be good enough to earn a BCS spot. There are still too many variables: Utah's computer rankings, Florida State's fortunes or even a loss by the Trojans could damage the Bears' hopes.

The players hear about their Rose Bowl chances from students and boosters. A few have tried to

follow the BCS rankings in the newspaper, though defensive end Ryan Riddle only got a headache.

Riddle is among the players who long for a playoff system — and a chance for a rematch with the ninth-ranked Utah, who beat Cal in Salt Lake City last year.

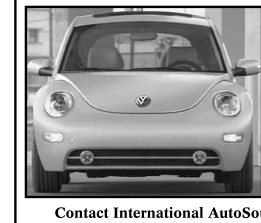
"The schedule is pretty lackadaisical from here on out, and if they end up going undefeated, it's kind of sad that we wouldn't have a chance to play them," said Riddle, second in the Pac-10 with seven sacks. "I feel kind of bitter about that team, just because they beat us last year."

All this uncertainty actually works out perfectly for coach Jeff

Tedford, who claims to have no idea or interest in his school's spot in the national picture.

"Cal isn't a perennial football power with a roster of elite high school All-Americans who expect to be in the national title hunt every year, so the novelty of the Bears' success could be intoxicating — but since it's so complicated, it's easier to keep his players focused on the next opponent."

"I don't know how you hold all that stuff away from them," Tedford said. "I just know how we address them. I think that we're mature enough and experienced enough to know that it's one week at a time. We don't ever look forward."



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# Beltran among 65 who file on first day of free agency

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Carlos Beltran wasted no time in becoming a free agent.

After hitting eight homers for the Houston Astros to tie the post-season record, the speedy center fielder was among 65 players who filed for free agency Thursday on the first possible day, after hours after Boston completed its historic sweep of St. Louis in the World Series.

Acquired during the season from Kansas City, Beltran has said he would consider re-signing with the Astros if they keep the core of the team together.

"I experienced being on a team where they don't do anything to help the ballclub," Beltran said. "One of my priorities if I stay with this ballclub will be keeping the young guys ... our young players have potential to be real good."

Beltran, who is represented by Scott Boras, could get the biggest deal of the offseason.

Dodgers third baseman Adrian Beltré, who led the major leagues

with 48 home runs, also filed along with Dodgers outfielder Steve Finley, Beltré, also a Boras client, had arthroscopic surgery Thursday to remove two large bone spurs from his left ankle.

"Obviously there's a lot of interest in those guys," Boras said. "We're getting a lot of calls, so we thought we'd file."

Toronto first baseman Carlos Delgado, Chicago White Sox outfielder Magglio Ordonez, Minnesota right-hander Brad Radke and Philadelphia right-hander Kevin Millwood also filed Thursday.

The Red Sox have 17 players among the more than 200 potentially eligible for free agency, a group that includes Pedro Martinez, Derek Lowe, Jason Varitek and Orlando Cabrera. Backup outfielder Gabe Kapler was the only player to file Thursday. Players may file through Nov. 11 and start negotiating money with any of the other 29 teams the following day.

Cardinals right-hander Chris Carpenter, sidelined since mid-September because of nerve damage in his right biceps, filed conditionally. St. Louis must de-

cide whether to exercise a \$2 million option for 2005.

Florida right-hander Carl Pavano and Philadelphia left-hander Eric Milton are among the other starting pitchers eligible to file.

Preliminary talks figure to start Nov. 8, when general managers gather for a week of meetings in Key Biscayne, Fla. The New York Yankees ended three days of high-level meetings in Tampa, Fla., on Thursday as they prepared for the offseason.

After becoming the first team to waste a 3-0 lead in a postseason series and lose to Boston in the AL Championship Series, New York may restart trade talks with Arizona for Randy Johnson.

"Make no mistake about it. We are hard at work and will be back with a strong team for our loyal New York Yankees fans," owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement.

The Chicago Cubs made two moves Thursday. They declined an \$11.5 million mutual option on outfielder Moises Alou, choosing to pay a \$2.5 million buyout, and also declined a \$2.5 million option

on second baseman Mark Grudzianek, paying him a \$250,000 buyout.

White Sox outfielder Carl Everett exercised his \$4 million option, and Chicago exercised a \$2.5 million option on closer Shingo Takatsu. The White Sox declined their \$1 million option on catcher Sandy Alomar Jr., paying him a \$50,000 buyout instead.

Craig Biggio's \$3 million option was exercised Thursday by the Astros, who declined Jeff Kent's \$9 million option and will pay the second baseman a \$700,000 buyout.

However, general manager Gerry Hunsicker said the team "made it clear to him that we had interest in sitting down with him and bringing him back under another contract scenario."

The Colorado Rockies and Jeremy Burnitz both declined his \$3 million mutual option, and the outfielder will get a \$250,000 buyout.

Cleveland right-hander Scott Elarton, who was eligible for free agency, agreed to an \$850,000, one-year contract.

There was one curious name among those who filed — New

York Mets first baseman Mo Vaughn, out most of the past two seasons with an arthritic left knee. Vaughn, who completed an \$80 million, six-year contract, filed to get off the Mets' 40-man roster.

In news Friday:

■ Boston exercised its option on third baseman Bill Mueller. The former batting champion will earn \$2.5 million next season.

■ The Yankees declined their 2005 option on first baseman Travis Lee and their 2006 option on reliever Paul Quantrill.

■ Texas decided not to pick up 2005 options on outfielders Ricky Greer and Brian Jordan.

■ Three-time All-Star third baseman Mike Lowell agreed with the Marlins to a revised deal in which Florida guarantees the remaining \$22.5 million on his contract.

■ The Reds picked up Sean Casey's contract option for 2006. The first baseman will make \$7.8 million next season.

■ The Cubs exercised their \$2 million option on right-handed reliever pitcher Ryan Dempster, who had "Tommy John" surgery in August 2003.

## Repeat: Can Red Sox maintain chemistry despite free agency?

REPEAT, FROM BACK PAGE

"Already we're thinking in terms of what it's going to take to defend our championship," Henry said when the team bus arrived at Fenway on Thursday morning after the flight from St. Louis.

Nothing, though, compares to this championship. The fans showed him that on his ride in from the airport after Lowe pitched seven scoreless innings in the clinching 3-0 victory.

"They never gave up, for their entire lives, they never gave up," Henry said. "As we drove in the buses with a police escort, traffic was stopped everywhere, people were out of the cars, based on joy, the release of all this yearning to win a world championship is just a great thing to see, to be a part of."

Martinez has a good relationship with Henry, and he has until Nov. 11 to declare free agency.

"It really is too early, way too early" to discuss that, said Fernando Cuza, Martinez's agent. "The guys just landed and some may be hung over."

Inside Fenway, which opened the same week in 1912 in which the Titanic sank, workers washed the concourses. On the field, the World Series goal remained on the grass behind home plate and the first- and third-base lines were given a new coat of white paint in case the field is needed for team photos.

Since the Red Sox lost Game 7 of last year's AL Championship Series to the Yankees, Epstein

has found ways to get them over that hump — adding stars and role players.

He hired a manager, Terry Francona, who he thought may have been too nice but ended up a perfect fit for a bunch of oddly coifed micks who played with joy. And Francona beat managerial luminaries Joe Torre and Tony La Russa along the way.

He traded a star shortstop, Nomar Garciaparra, who was too sullen for the goofy clubhouse. But he had been such a big part of the franchise that his teammates voted him a full playoff share.

Epstein put together a middle infield of Orlando Cabrera, errorless in 14 postseason games, and Beckett, whose two-run homer into Pesky's Pole in right field in the eighth inning won the World Series opener 11-9.

But neither is a lock to return. Cabrera can become a free agent and Beckett, not yet eligible for free agency, is signed only through this season.

Martinez is the biggest name and didn't hurt his bargaining po-

sition by allowing three hits in seven scoreless innings in Boston's 4-1 victory in Game 3, perhaps his last outing in a Red Sox uniform.

"I said I hope it's not the last one," said Martinez, who would have to accept less than this year's \$17.5 million salary to stay. "But if it is, I just want the fans and everybody to understand that I did whatever possible to represent the city well, the team, and that my heart will always be with them."

The three-time Cy Young award winner was 16-9, his most losses since 1996, with a career-high ERA of 3.90. But he was healthy all season and didn't miss a start.

Lowe struggled and finished at 14-12 with a 5.42 ERA. But he was the winning pitcher in the clinching games of the AL Division Series, AL Championship Series and World Series. He also got the save in the deciding fifth game of last year's playoffs against Oakland.

"When you think you're down

as far as you can go, I kept getting back up," said Lowe, who increased his market value with his playoff performance, a price the Red Sox might be reluctant to pay.

Lowe made \$5 million this year, Varitek earned \$6.7 million and both are represented by Scott Boras, who likes his clients to test the free-agent market.

For now, the Red Sox are champions for the first time in 86 years.

So on Thursday, Tom Wilson, 44, of Falmouth, stood in the line for souvenirs at a store where, interestingly, the last four digits of his phone number are 8886. He wore a Red Sox cap, a t-shirt whose print was full of baseballs and a blue suit.

"I'm not going back until I get large quantities of shirts and hats, 48 caps, 48 shirts," he said. "I'm going to take a couple of items and put them on gravestones of people who didn't get to see this."

"My only fear," he said, "is that the Yankees will buy our players."

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# Cubs analyst Stone won't return next season

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Longtime Chicago Cubs analyst Steve Stone announced Thursday he was leaving WGN-TV, less than one month after coming under fire for on-air comments he made criticizing the team.

"I regret I won't be calling another Cubs game on WGN-TV for the greatest fans in baseball, the fans of the Chicago Cubs," Stone, a Cubs broadcaster for 20 years, said on WGN-AM radio.

Stone told The Associated Press that WGN wanted to bring him back next season. But after much deliberation, he said he reached a decision that was "probably best for all parties."

"I am not retired," Stone said. "I am going to spend the rest of my life in baseball. I just don't exactly know where that will be."

Stone, who joined the Cubs as a pitcher in 1974, won the Cy Young Award for Baltimore in 1980 when he went 25-7.

A telephone message left for a Cubs spokeswoman was not immediately returned Thursday night. WGN and the Cubs are both owned by Tribune Co., the parent of the Chicago Tribune.

Some of Stone's comments this season led to a meeting Oct. 1 with Cubs president Andy MacPhail, general manager Jim Hendry and manager Dusty Baker after Stone questioned managerial strategy and criticized the team's approach during a postgame television show Sept. 30.

Later that night on WGN radio, he also criticized the team for making excuses in a late-season loss that damaged their chances of making the playoffs.

"You want the truth. You can't handle the truth," Stone said at the time. "The truth of this situation is an extremely talented bunch of guys who want to look at all directions except where they should really look and kind of make excuses for what happened. At the end of the day, boys, don't tell me how rough the water is, you bring in the ship."

## Rangers reliever Francisco faces a lesser charge

OAKLAND, Calif. — Texas Rangers reliever Frank Francisco will face a misdemeanor assault charge rather than a felony



## Briefs

for breaking a woman's nose when he threw a chair into the stands during a game.

"He has no record. He threw a plastic chair. It's not a gun. It's not a knife," Alameda County Superior Deputy District Attorney Norbert Chu said Thursday, explaining his decision.

While Francisco still faces a maximum three years' probation and one year in county jail, if convicted, he escaped the three years in state prison connected to a felony conviction.

A misdemeanor charge also means that Francisco does not have to appear in court for some proceedings, including the initial arraignment, Chu said.

Francisco threw the chair into the right-field box seats and hit two spectators in the head during a Rangers-Oakland Athletics game Sept. 13.

He hit Jennifer Bueno, whose husband, Craig, was part of a group of fans heckling the Rangers before the fracas.

The couple's attorney, J. Gary Williams, said he expected such an outcome.

"It doesn't carry a state prison charge, but (the Buenos) are not out for blood. They feel the punishment should rest in the discretion of the prosecutors and the courts and the police," he said.

Francisco's attorney, Rick Minkoff, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Francisco was suspended for 15 games, which carries through the final game of the regular season. He still faces the possibility of a civil suit by the Buenos.

## D.C. Council gets an earful on baseball at hearing

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of people shared their opinions on Mayor Anthony A. Williams' \$440 million baseball stadium proposal during a District of Columbia Council hearing that lasted more than 14 hours, stretching into Friday morning.

More than 230 individuals were scheduled to testify following presentations from city officials in a packed council chamber.

Baseball supporters wore red

ball caps with a "W." Opponents wore navy blue caps that read "Neighborhoods First."

"There's more people here than an Expos game," quipped Councilman Adrian Penny, D-Ward 4.

But the hearing turned serious quickly as members of the council laid out their arguments and grilled city officials on whether they had gotten the best deal from Major League Baseball.

Councilman David Catania called it "the worst deal in America" and rallied against the arguments of City Administrator Rob-

ert Bobb and other mayoral appointees during the hearing. The mayor did not testify.

He found an ally in former mayor Marion Barry, who said he wants a baseball team for D.C. but not at such a high cost and not on the Anacostia River waterfront.

"We shouldn't do it at any expense," Barry said. "Why should we subsidize these millionaires?"

## Phillies interview Pendleton

PHILADELPHIA — Terry Pendleton, the Atlanta Braves' hitting coach, the past three seasons,

was interviewed by the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday for their vacant managerial position. Jim Leyland, who managed Pittsburgh and Colorado and led Florida to its first World Series championship in 1997, will interview on Monday, with no other candidates scheduled.

Former managers Don Baylor, Charlie Manuel, Grady Little, Buddy Bell and Jim Fregosi, and former Phillies first-round pick John Russell have interviewed. Only Pendleton and Russell, a third-base coach for Pittsburgh, have no managerial experience in the majors.

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# MLB playoffs: The gift that keeps giving

**B**aseball in the 21st century is presenting us with grave difficulties. Nothing is this good. When you hit the mega-millions lottery once, it's a fantasy. When you win it twice, it's a miracle. When you win it the third time, it's got to be a trick. But here we are: Three times in four seasons baseball fans have hit once-in-a-lifetime October lotteries. Color me blissfully suspicious.

Thomas Boswell



The 2001 World Series is the consensus best ever with three walk-off games for the ages, plus the sport's ultimate scene: An underdog (Arizona) trails the Yanks entering the ninth inning of Game 7, but rallies to win against the best postseason reliever ever.

Then '03's World Series was the best postseason ever with two winner-take-all Division Series games, followed by seven seven-game pennant playoffs, which are so incredible that two names (neither a player) reprise the whole plot: Grady Little and Steve Bartman. Then the wild-card Marlins won the Series on the Yanks' home turf led by a 23-year-old pitcher and a 73-year-old manager.

And now we are left to digest and delight in this thing that the Red Sox have done. But what is it? In a roadside restaurant on Thursday morning, three Boston fans, in the Red Sox caps, paid a cashier who was still wearing her "Go Cardinals" pin. The whole joint was decked in Cardinals colors and placards, appropriate for a city that worships baseball.

"Congratulations," she said to them. "No, really, congratulations." Partly, that's Midwestern manners and generosity of spirit, which isn't a fiction. Leaving a Busch Stadium parking lot at 1 a.m. after Game 4, the attendant even said "Congratulations to me and I was only wearing a plain blue jacket with a red lining."

What we've seen is the most widely popular and emotionally satisfying baseball season since the silliness began in 1869.

The most beloved of all the star-crossed teams in all our sports — the Red Sox — just completed the greatest comeback in the history of any American professional sport by beating the Yankees after trailing three games to none. Then they capped

their Reverse the Curse celebration with a sweep of the (supposedly) best team in baseball, the 105-win Cards, in which Boston never trailed.

The Red Sox went to the absolute brink of emotional devastation, at least in sports terms, with a 19-8 loss in Game 3 of the ALCS. Even now, who can believe the lines of the Nos. 2 through 5 hitters in the Yankee box score: Rodriguez 5-5-3, Sheffield 5-3-4, Matsui 6-5-5, Williams 6-1-4-3. That's a combined 22-14-16! Five of four consecutive hitters ever topped that? No wonder that, during such lopsided routes, old coaches yell, "Save some of 'em." In baseball, the law of averages is not only immutable but also sometimes immediate. As a group, Rodriguez, Sheffield, Matsui and Williams are .300 hitters. After their 16-for-22 eruption, they went 13 for 74 (1.75) in New York's four losses. So, in their last five games of the ALCS, they hit .302 — exactly what should have been expected of them. But they did it all in Game 3, which set the stage for history.

The Red Sox of old teams should recover from just a bludgeoning in their own Fenway Park evokes phrases like "the power of the human spirit," which usually seem embarrassingly out of place in games played by millionaires. But if you watched those last five games, played in a crisp average time of 4 hours, 31 minutes, you were left thinking, "I'll never see anything like that again."

Nobody in baseball, facing a three-game deficit, had even forced a Game 7 before, much less won it. The Red Sox did it with a four-day balancing act in which, in almost every inning, it seemed they were about to plunge to their demise.

"You just try to simplify it, because if you look too far ahead it gets overwhelming," said Boston manager Terry Francona. "When I looked at that series and saw all the opportunities we had to lose, I'm glad we didn't look ahead or it would have been insurmountable."

Even in retrospect it seems insurmountable. How did they do it? The Red Sox did it with two extra-inning, game-winning hits by David Ortiz after hanging two blown saves on Mariano Rivera on the same calendar date (Oct. 18). How narrow was the margin? If Dave Roberts, safe by inches, had been called out stealing in the ninth inning of Game 4 or if, moments later, Rivera had snagged Bill Mueller's RBI liner through the box, the Red Sox would have been swept. Except for those two plays, both decided by a foot or less, we'd be babbling now about how the Curse



Arizona's Luis Gonzalez capped a two-run ninth-inning with a run-scoring single in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series.

AP

had redoubled in power and might last for eternity.

In Games 4 and 5, the Yankees left 32 men on base. That's 32. If Tony Clark's ninth-inning Game 5 ground-rule double doesn't short-hop the low fence near the Pesky Pole, preventing Riber Sierra from scoring from first base with two outs, the Red Sox's comeback expires right there. Back in New York, the margin of error became physical.

When Curt Schilling awoke the morning of Game 6, his leg was numb from a suture hitting a nerve and was absolutely sure he couldn't pitch.

Boston had nobody else, nobody feasible. But he provided seven innings of one-run pitching. In Game 7, the Red Sox hoped Derek Lowe, pitching on two days' rest, could survive three decent innings without sinking them utterly. Instead, Lowe allowed one hit in six innings and retired his last 11 hitters. He still has no idea how he did it.

Three weeks ago, Lowe was so persona non grata that one Red Sox executive just rolled his eyes in dismay at the mention of his name.

Now Lowe has become the first man to win the clinching game of all three postseason series in one year.

But why should that surprise anybody? Last winter, the Red Sox put Manny Ramirez and his \$20-million-a-year contract on waivers, praying that anybody would take him as a gift. Nobody would touch him. Now he's the World Series MVP. For Boston. Meanwhile, Alex Rodriguez, the man the Red Sox desperately wanted, ended the ALCS in a 1-for-15 slump and Nomar Garciaparra's skills have declined so rapidly that the Chicago Cubs aren't entirely sure they want to

re-sign him.

But, who ended up being the Red Sox shortstop? Why, slick-fielding Orlando Cabrera, whose 11 postseason RBIs tied him with Ramirez and Jason Varitek for the second-highest Boston total behind Ortiz's dizzying total of 19 RBIs in 14 games.

This rapid-fire World Series was, in a way, the only proper encore for what the Red Sox accomplished. After an ALCS that no one will ever forget, why not follow up with a World Series that no one will ever remember — except for its staggering one-sidedness. In retrospect, Game 1 was decisive. It shouldn't have been. But it was. Sometimes in a postseason series there is an atrocious total-luck game that both teams deserve to lose by, oh, maybe 10 runs. But one of them has to win it by default.

If you squander that gift, that "swing game" in the eyes of the gods, then if you're the tightly wound type, you feel spooked.

Nobody's wrapped tighter or more attuned to baseball subtlety or less able to hide his feelings when he fears the dice have turned cold than Tony (The Cooler) La Russa. If you've seen the William H. Macy flick about Vegas, then you've seen La Russa once the pressure gets him and his team senses it. All he has to do is walk near a hitter and the guy is doomed to go for 12.

By the time the Cards got back to St. Louis, they were in total choke mode. The Red Sox's pitching trio of Schilling, Martinez and Lowe had an ERA of 0.00 while the Cards' 4-5-6 hitters — Scott Rolen, Jim Edwards and Reggie Sanders — were 0-for-50 after an initial Edwards' bunt hit against a Red Sox shift.

Wow, what are the odds? This is now the third Series in which a monster La Russa team has shut down emotional operations after an early series reversal. Add up the '88, '90 and '04 Series: 1-12.

At this time last year, baseball fans collapsed with exhaustion (or perhaps sleep deprivation) and assumed they would never see an October the like of that one again. Yet yet just did. Only this October left tens of millions of unaligned fans, without a horse in the race, but a love of the sport, as delighted as last year seemed a cruel joke to anyone except jovial Jack McKeon.

After such exalted shenanigans, what unfinished business can possibly remain on baseball's October feasting table? Shhhhh, don't you dare say, "Gimme a C... U... B..."

Thomas Boswell is a columnist for the Washington Post.

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# Yokota wins sixth consecutive league titles

## Panthers defeat Red Devils, get home field for Rising Sun Bowl

Stars and Stripes

Senior running back Chris Roach ran for 243 yards and two touchdowns on Friday to help host Yokota beat Nile C. Kinnick 24-7 and capture their sixth consecutive titles in the Japan Football League and Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools.

The Panthers secured home-field advantage for Rising Sun Bowl VI on Nov. 13 against the Okinawa Activities Council champion, which will be decided Thursday. And for the second straight year, Yokota will face a team from Kadena.

The Kadena Buccaneers powered past the Kubasaki Samurai 34-21, while the unbeaten Kadena Islanders rallied to beat the winless Kubasaki Shogun 21-16 in Friday's OAC semifinals at Kubasaki's Mike Petty Stadium.

Elsewhere, Zama American closed its season with its second straight one-sided victory as Donovan Nance scored three touchdowns in a 38-6 rout of American School in Japan.

### Japan

**Yokota 24, Nile C. Kinnick 7**  
YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Kinnick, which lost to Yokota 7-6 on Sept. 24, needed a victory by two points or more at Bonk Field to end the Panthers' title run.

"This game, the pressure was on even more," Yokota coach Tim Pujol said. "We had to win. We didn't have much room for error. We're used to going into our second game with teams having already beaten them by comfortable margins."

Kinnick scored first, converting one of three Yokota fumbles into a Jarvis Williams 11-yard first-quarter touchdown run.

But Roach, who averaged 10 yards a carry, ran 9 yards for a score to tie it. Then, a bad snap to Kinnick's punter set up Roach's 10-yard TD run that put the Panthers in front to stay. Stefan



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

**Kadena Buccaneers quarterback Tyler Schmidt is dragged down by two Kubasaki Samurai defenders during Friday's playoff game at Kubasaki High on Camp Foster, Okinawa.**

Welch's 32-yard field goal made it 17-7 at halftime.

While Yokota's defense shut out the Red Devils in the second half, its offense "dictated the play," according to Kinnick offensive coordinator Jimmy Davis.

"The momentum changed," Davis said. "They rammed the ball down our throats."

Yokota's TD after halftime came on Shawn Novak's 19-yard pass to Shamarr Howell. Novak completed two of four passes for 38 yards. Howell caught both passes and ran 12 times for 46 yards, and Josh Cunningham had 37 yards on six carries. Jamal McNeill led Yokota with 11 tackles and Kenny Harris had nine.

For Kinnick, Lenny Lynce ran 15 times for 91 yards, caught four passes for 81 and had eight tackles. Williams added 54 yards on 10 carries and had nine tackles. Quarterback David McDermott was 8-for-11 for 121 yards.

The Panthers have won 46 straight games on the field.

"They're (titles) each unique because they're different groups

of kids," Pujol said. "But it's always good to see their hard work pay off and the satisfaction in their faces."

### Zama American 38, American School in Japan 6

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — Nance amassed 258 all-purpose yards and scored on a 58-yard run, a 60-yard interception return and a 98-yard fumble return as the Trojans (3-5) outscored their last two opponents 76-13 in two victories.

Johnson carried 12 times for 108 yards, ran 2 yards for a touchdown and converted three two-point attempts. Quincy Howard tossed an 87-yard pass to Miguel Vega for Zama's other touchdown. Vega and Anthony Garcia each intercepted passes for Zama.

### Okinawa

#### Kadena Islanders 21, Kubasaki Shogun 16

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Keith Loving capped the Islanders' comeback with a 5-yard fourth-quarter touchdown run. Loving had 142 yards on 27 carries.

C.J. Weidner returned a fumble 16 yards for a TD and Steve Madayag tossed a 15-yard scoring pass to Arnold Tillman.

The Shogun led 9-7 at halftime on Rafael Mew's 17-yard touchdown pass to Ronnie Stephens and Chris Snyder's 25-yard field goal.

"We know every team gets up to play us. They want to test the islanders," coach Sergio Mendoza said. "This (Shogun) is the most underrated team on the island. They're not an 0-7 team, in my book. It would have been different with a few breaks. They play with pride and class."

Mew had 131 all-purpose yards and cut the final margin to five points with a 2-yard run with 1:46 left. Jarrell Moss recovered two fumbles as the Shogun forced six turnovers. Loving recovered a fumble and David McCowan, playing for the first time in three

weeks, had an interception.

### Kadena Buccaneers 34, Kubasaki Samurai 21

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Darnell Womach returned an interception 27 yards for a score and ran 13 times for 104 yards and a touchdown, while Tyler Schmidt threw two TD passes to Gary Wright as the defending island champions won for the third time in four games.

"The kids have worked hard and gotten better every week," Buccaneers coach Brian Wetherington said. "You can't ask more than that as a coach."

Lenard White's 50-yard run on a reverse put the Samurai ahead 7-0 in the opening minutes. Wright tied it with his first TD catch, a 7-yarder, and it stayed tied until Womach's interception return.

Schmidt went 4-for-7 for 43 yards and ran 12 times for 137 yards.

## Local scoreboard

### High school football Japan Football League

x-Yokota	W	L	Pct.	PP	PA
Nile C. Kinnick	3	2	.600	105	57
Robert D. Edgren	1	4	.200	48	175
Zama American	1	5	.167	64	155
x-cinched sixth straight Japan Football League title.					

### Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools

x-Yokota	W	L	Pct.	PP	PA
Nile C. Kinnick	4	2	.667	140	55
Zama American	2	4	.333	74	158
American School in Japan	0	5	.000	32	178

Yokota 24, Nile C. Kinnick 7

Zama American 38, American School in Japan 6

Friday, Nov. 5

Robert D. Edgren at Nile C. Kinnick, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 6

Yokota at American School in Japan, 1 p.m.

END REGULAR SEASON

### Okinawa Activities Council

Final regular-season standings

x-Kadena Islanders	W	L	Pct.	PP	PA
Kadena Buccaneers	7	0	1.000	174	78
Kubasaki Samurai	4	5	.451	134	136
Kubasaki Shogun	3	4	.429	130	150
x-cinched regular-season championship, top seed in island playoffs.					

Postseason

Friday, Oct. 29

Semifinals

At Mike Petty Stadium, Kubasaki High School, Camp Foster

Kadena Islanders 34, Kubasaki Samurai 21

Kadena Islanders 21, Kubasaki Shogun 16

Thursday, Nov. 4

Kadena Buccaneers vs. Kadena Islanders, time and site to be determined.

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# After arrest, Redskins bench rookie S Taylor

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A day after skipping practice following his arrest on a drunken-driving charge, Washington Redskins rookie safety Sean Taylor was granted an excused absence Friday. In fact, the team told him to stay away until Monday.

Taylor will be inactive for Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers, the fallout from being charged with driving under the influence and refusing a breathalyzer test after being stopped by a Virginia trooper early Thursday.

Taylor was not at Redskins Park for Friday's practice. Coach Joe Gibbs said the No. 5 overall draft pick will not be at Saturday's walkthrough or Sunday's game. "He's not going to play this weekend, so I think it's good for him from a standpoint of media attention for the team and all that kind of stuff," Gibbs said. "It'd be better for the rest of us to spend

the rest of the week concentrating on Green Bay."

The Redskins have to handle Taylor's situation carefully because they can't directly punish him over the charges unless he admits to them or is found guilty. However, Gibbs can penalize Taylor for missing Thursday's practice and team meetings without notice.

Taylor was stopped by a state trooper around 2:45 a.m. EDT Thursday.

"I realize we're dealing with young guys," Gibbs said. "They make mistakes. In general, we trust them. They're real professional. You've got to be smart. You've got a lot of time to vacation, be with your family or whatever. During the season, it's the time when you're trying to be focused on football."

Taylor's absence leaves the Redskins without their two top safeties. Matt Bowen is out for the season with a knee injury, leaving Ryan Clark and Andre Lott — with just seven career NFL starts between them — as the probable starters against the Packers.

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis for upcoming game.

**Engles:** RB Brian Westbrook (cracked rib) questionable.

**Jaguars:** RB Fred Taylor (quadiceps) probable.

**Ravens:** RB Jamal Lewis (suspension), OT Jonathan Ogden (hamstring), DE Todd Heap (ankle) doubtful.

**Redskins:** LB Lavar Arrington (knee), OT K.J. Hall (groin) out.

**Titans:** LB Steve McNair (bruised chest) questionable; RB Chris Brown (knee) questionable.

**Vikings:** WR Randy Moss (hamstring) questionable.

## Ogden signs seven-year contract with Ravens

BALTIMORE — All-Pro left tackle Jonathan Ogden signed a seven-year contract Thursday with the Baltimore Ravens, allowing the seven-time Pro Bowler to finish his career with the Ravens.

"I'm just glad it's done," Ogden said after signing the deal late Thursday afternoon, according to the Ravens' Web site. "I don't have to think about it anymore, not that I was overly concerned about it."

Ogden will not play this week because of a pulled hamstring.

## Favre misses another practice

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Packers' top three offensive performers missed practice again Thursday as quarterback Brett Favre, running back Alvin Green and lineman Marco Rivera were on the sideline.

Favre's right hand is swollen and black and blue after he sprained it Sunday against Dallas. Rivera has a sprained ankle, and Green a sore Achilles' tendon. Offensive coordinator Tom Ross said said the Packers are concerned that taking steps would aggravate Favre's hand. Favre hasn't missed a start in more than 11 years.

"Well, the whole top here is swollen and black and blue. The tendons or the bones or whatever are damaged on top of the hand," Ross said. "When he bends it back and takes the snap, that's what he's worried about."

## Bears rookie Harris fined \$5,000 for late hit

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chicago Bears rookie defensive tackle Tommie Harris was fined \$5,000 for knocking Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Brian Griese to the ground Sunday during a dead-ball situation.

# They meet again

## Lewis, Owens avoid controversy before Ravens-Eagles matchup

By ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Visions of Terrell Owens coming across the middle have probably raced through Ray Lewis' mind all week.

The All-Pro linebacker hasn't admitted having such thoughts recently, but he sure isn't going to hold back if he gets a shot at Owens when the Baltimore Ravens visit the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

The two friends became adversaries when Owens rejected the Ravens, forcing a trade to the Eagles less than two weeks after San Francisco initially sent the four-time Pro Bowl wide receiver to Baltimore last March.

Lewis and Owens had a few testy exchanges leading up to a preseason game in Philadelphia, beginning with Lewis warning Owens not to cross the middle. But both insist they're focused on the game this time.

"I look forward to anybody with an opposite-colored jersey coming over the middle. There's no more emphasis on T.O. than anybody else," Lewis said. "My way to heaven doesn't go through Terrell Owens, so I wish we'd stop bringing him up."

Owens would rather talk about his success with the Eagles, who are seeking the first 7-0 record in franchise history.

"I'm just thankful that I'm here," he said. "I knew that for me to be productive and play like the receiver that I know I can be, I had to be put in the right situation."

The loquacious Owens never made a secret of his desire to play with quarterback Donovan McNabb. But, he said for the first time this week that an "offensive" racial comment by Ravens General Manager Ozzie Newsome also persuaded him to spurn Baltimore.

In his recent autobiography, Owens wrote that Newsome told the wide receiver's agent that,

"He was a black man from Alabama just like T.O." and that "sometimes a black man's gotta be slapped."

Owens made a statement on the first play of the game in the exhibition game, racing past cornerback Gary Baxter and catching an 81-yard touchdown pass from McNabb.

With Deion Sanders joining Baxter and All-Pro cornerback Chris McAlister in Baltimore's secondary, Owens might have a tougher time doing deep.

"He's a great receiver, so how can you not look forward to the matchups?" Baxter said. "It's nothing personal. He's just going to go out there and do his thing and I'll do my thing and we'll all get on the same page."

Owens has 34 catches for 596 yards and eight touchdowns.

"He's having one of the great seasons in the league. It's going to be an interesting matchup," McAlister said.

The Ravens (4-2) need to contain Owens and the rest of the Eagles' offense, but their depleted defense has trouble scoring.

Baltimore will be without All-Pro running back Jamal Lewis (suspension) and All-Pro tackle Jonathan Ogden (hamstring). They also likely won't have Pro Bowl tight end Todd Heap, who has been sidelined since the second week of the season with a sprained ankle.

Still, Baltimore's defense, led by Lewis, the cornerbacks and safeties Ed Reed and Will Demps, is a formidable challenge for Philadelphia's offense. The Eagles' average of 28.5 points per game is second in the NFL, but no team has allowed fewer points (85) than the Ravens.

The Eagles' already-thin running backs corps could be without Brian Westbrook, questionable with a cracked rib. Westbrook has 458 yards rushing, including two 100-yard games, and has 31 carries for 349 yards. Veteran Dorsey Levens will start if Westbrook doesn't.

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# Streak-busting upset brewing in Pittsburgh

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

The New England Patriots might be like no other powerhouse in NFL history. They almost never dominate, they just always win — a record 21 victories in a row including the postseason, 18 straight in the regular season.

Could their run end in Pittsburgh on Sunday?

The Steelers are 5-1 and have won four straight, all with rookie Ben Roethlisberger at quarterback. They also are home and rested after an off week.

By contrast, four of New England's six wins this season have been in Foxboro, where the Patriots never lose. Their road games were rather sloppy wins at Arizona and Buffalo, teams that have won three games between them.

On the other hand, Roethlisberger is due for a bad game at some point, and Bill Belichick and Romeo Crennel are just the coaches to devise a defense that will confuse a rookie quarterback. That's especially true with a defense full of game-turners: Willie McGinest, Tedy Bruschi, Richard Seymour, Ty Law, Rodney Harrison, and on and on.

"I'm sure with Ben, they will have a special package for him," says Hines Ward, whose 43 receptions rank sixth in the NFL.

Pittsburgh seeks a measure of



revenge. The last time the teams played at Heinz Field was the 2001 AFC championship game, when the Patriots upset the favored Steelers 24-17. Drew Bledsoe came on in relief of an injured Tom Brady in what turned out to be his last hurrah as a Patriot.

New England is the favorite this time, by three points.

Favorites have been falling every week. And home underdogs win, especially when they are 5-1.

## STEELERS, 17-16.

**Baltimore** (plus 8½) at **Philadelphia**: Another upset possibility, even with Jamal Lewis suspended. But Baltimore will be without Jonathan Ogden, too, allowing the Eagles to put even more pressure on the struggling Kyle Boller. ... **EAGLES, 17-10.**

**Miami** (plus 7) at **New York Jets** (Monday night): Before the Dolphins beat the Rams, David Bowen said he expected them to win their final 10 games. Sorry. ... **JETS, 19-11.**

**Indianapolis** (minus 2½) at **Kansas City**: The Chiefs never stopped the Colts last season. The Colts don't stop many people either. ... **COLTS, 45-42.**

**Atlanta** (plus 6½) at **Denver**:

Another AFC West team that can run against the Falcons. Not 56 points this week, but ... **BRONCOS, 27-17.**

**New York Giants** (plus 7) at **Minnesota**: After the Giants beat the 6-0 Vikings at the Metrodome last season, Mike Tice said: "This game has concerned me over the years, because we don't match up well against the Giants." ... **GIANTS, 30-28.**

**Jacksonville** (plus 2) at **Houston**: The Jaguars can't always win in the final minute ... **TEXANS, 16-14.**

**Detroit** (plus 3) at **Dallas**: The road is suddenly magic for the Lions. ... **LIONS, 24-20.**

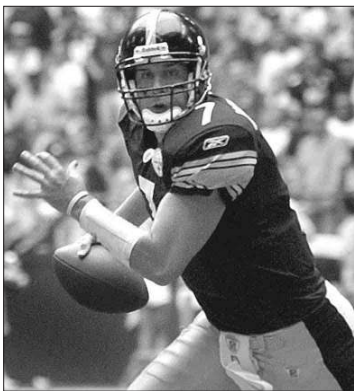
**Green Bay** (minus 2½) at **Washington**: The Packers' two best DBs might not play, but does that matter against Mark Brunell? ... **PACKERS, 20-9.**

**Cincinnati** (plus 4) at **Tennessee**: Steve McNair's chest injury is the Titans' biggest concern. Assume he won't play. Or won't play well. ... **BENGALS, 20-14.**

**Carolina** (plus 8) at **Seattle**: With all the Panthers' problems, another Seahawks loss is inconceivable. Or is it? ... **SEAHAWKS, 22-16.**

**Oakland** (plus 5) at **San Diego**: The Chargers can make the playoffs. ... **CHARGERS, 31-22.**

**Arizona** (plus 3) at **Buffalo**: The Cardinals have lost three road games by a total of 13 points. ...



Ben Roethlisberger seeks to go to 5-0 as Pittsburgh's starting QB.

## BILLS, 13-9.

**San Francisco** (plus 2) at **Chicago**: Tim Rattay is an NFL quarterback. Craig Krenzel, Jonathan Quinn and Chad Hutchinson

aren't. ... **49ERS, 10-6.**

Last week: 5-9 (spread), 8-6 (straight up).

Season: 51-49-2 (spread), 67-35 (straight up).

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# Suman's 62 leads PGA event in Fla.

The Associated Press

**PALM HARBOR, Fla.** — A few hours after Jeff Sluman finished his record-setting round, the scoreboard behind him on the putting green did it clear that no one was going to catch his 9-under 62 in the Chrysler Championship.

## Golf briefs

Before long, players walked by with their congratulations.

"Tell me you stopped after 16,"

Peter Jacobsen said.

Kevin Na took the belly putter from Sluman and said, "Why are you practicing?" It's been a while since Sluman was the center of attention. It felt even longer since he has seen so many shots go where he was aiming, and so many putts disappear into the hole.

Sluman missed only one green Thursday, made nine birdies and never came close to a bogey in building a two-shot lead on the Copperhead course at Innisbrook that played nearly a half-shot over par. The previous course record was 63 by K.J. Choi in the opening round two years ago.

Jonathan Kaye and Kent Jones — one guy trying to get into the Tour Championship, the other trying to keep his PGA Tour card — were at 64. Kaye got there in style with a hole-in-one on No. 17, and finishing with a birdie.

Vijay Singh, who needs only a top 15 at Innisbrook to assure himself a \$10 million season, had a 65.

The only thing Sluman lacked was an explanation. "It was one of those days that, because you're playing so well, it just seems easy," Sluman said. "And you kind of wonder to yourself why in the world you can't do that more often."

Sluman isn't starving, but he is only No. 79 on the money list and one of the few guys who isn't on some kind of bubble in the final full-golf tournament of the year.

Sunday will decide who gets into the Tour Championship (top 30 on the money list), the Masters (top 40) and who keeps their jobs next year (top 125).

That's why it was a good start — and a great finish — for Kaye, who is 32nd on the money list \$32,000 behind the guy in 30th place. And it was even more important to Jones, who is 124th on the money list and showed up in Tampa some \$1,200 over Olin Browne at No. 125.

Kirk Triplett made six birdies on his first eight



Jeff Sluman, above, played Thursday on the Copperhead course at Innisbrook, which played nearly a half-shot over par. The previous course record of 63 was set by K.J. Choi in the first round two years ago.

holes, cooling from there to join Jones and Kaye at 64. Justin Rose of England had a 65 and was tied with Singh.

## Garcia takes one-stroke lead in Volvo Masters

**SOTOGRADE, Spain** — Sergio Garcia birdied the last two holes to overcome a poor start and shoot 2-under-par 69 and snatch a one-stroke lead in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama.

After a bogey on the first hole and a double-bogey on No. 3, Garcia birdied five holes on the back nine to move past Alastair Forsyth into the lead with a total of 6-under 136.

The Scot bogeyed the last for a 69 and was one ahead of Ian Poulter, who carded a 67.

Darren Clarke made an 11 on Valderrama's treacherous 536-yard, par-5 17th hole, in which the green sloped toward a lake that fronts the green.

Clarke hit his second shot into a bunker on the 17th.

"I hit a sand wedge which spun back into the water," he said. "I dropped out, hit another one from 10 yards, another really good shot right behind the flag. It pitched back and kept going into the water. Back to the drop zone, hit another, a bit heavy. It pitched over the flag and came back into the water. I hit another to the back edge of the green. It spun back but stayed up on top. Two putts, 11."

## Koch, Park pace LPGA field in South Korea

**JEJU, South LPGA** — Carin Koch of Sweden and Seon Hui Park of Korea tied for first round of 66 on Friday, taking the lead after the first round of the LPGA's CJ Nine Bridges Classic.

and a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart.

"There will be a somber feeling to things," said Busch, who holds a 96-point lead over Gordon with just four races remaining. "It's a tight-knit community, and we're all going to be here to support the Hendrick family."

At least one major sponsor cut back on their promotional events during the week out of respect for the victims.

Candlelight vigils were held in North Carolina. But this is a sport that's accustomed to dealing with death, so calling off the next race was never an option.

All of Hendrick's drivers — Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers — will be racing on the high-banked, 1.54-mile oval that usually produces the fastest speeds on the Nextel Cup circuit.

Gordon, a four-time champion,

is the team's best hope for a title in 2004, though Johnson has jumped up to fourth by winning the past two races.

The 26-year-old Busch is clearly in the driver's seat, poised to become the second-youngest champion in NASCAR's modern era. The only driver he can't surpass is Gordon, who was 24 when he won the first of his titles in 1995.

Earnhardt trails by 125 points, while Johnson is a whopping 207 points behind. Everyone behind Busch in the 10-man championship chase needs the leader to have a major meltdown.

For instance, if Gordon wins the last four races and picked up the maximum number of points, Busch could still claim the title by one point if he averaged a four-place finish and led only one lap the rest of the way.

Earnhardt's title hopes took a major blow last week when he got caught in a wreck and finished 33rd in the Subway 500.

# Stern: Owners want relief from some long-term deals

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Defining one of the goals of owners in collective bargaining talks, NBA Commissioner David Stern said owners would like relief from long-term contract obligations to unproductive players.

The NBA's seven-year labor agreement expires after the upcoming season, and the league and players' union have been holding preliminary talks on a new deal — the first since the sides went through a costly lockout that wiped out a large portion of the 1998-99 season.

Sounding a fairly optimistic tone, Stern said it was far too early in the process to even be speaking about the possibility of another lockout.

But he did give some insight into what's behind one of the owners' current proposals — cutting the maximum length of contracts from seven years to four.

"Owners, on balance, want to come up with system that's a bit more profitable than the existing system and doesn't reward players who are no longer in the league — or who shouldn't be in the league at higher prices," Stern said Thursday in a conference call with reporters.

"Players getting contracts and not playing in the league is taking money from players who are in the league and are playing heavily." The league gets into discussions of shorter contracts," Stern said.

Stern met with ownership's negotiating committee this week during the league's salary negotiations meeting, giving a briefing on what parameters have been established in talks with the union.

The union is seeking greater freedom of movement for players, along with an end to the escrow tax system under which 10 percent of players' paychecks are withheld, and the luxury tax system that penalizes owners with the highest payrolls.

Stern also said he has asked for a 20-year-old age limit, with incentives provided to players who defer their draft eligibility to stay in college. The union says it adamantly opposes raising the current age limit of 18.

"There are lots of proposals and ideas going around. We remain committed to a process that guarantees the players a specific percentage of revenues," Stern said. "We're talking more about certain approaches as to redistributing money than we are about major efforts to clamp that money down."

NBA owners are also seeking a reduction in the size of annual raises given in long-term contracts. Currently, players can receive 2.5 percent raises if they sign with their current team, 10 percent if they sign with a new team as a free agent.

Owners are also discussing a reduction in the starting salary for the midlevel exception, which allows teams over the salary cap to free agents.

Union director Billy Hunter did not immediately respond to Stern's statements. He said during the summer that a lockout is possible if ownership didn't move

## Sports briefs

significantly away from its initial demands.

## Cavs decline option on Wagner

**CLEVELAND** — Guard David Wagner will become a free agent again this season because the Cleveland Cavaliers declined their \$3.4 million contract option for 2005-06 on Friday.

The sixth overall pick in the 2002 draft, Wagner has shown flashes of being a productive player. He averaged 13.4 points in 47 games as a rookie and 6.5 last season in 44 games. He missed 33 games after knee surgery.

Wagner sprained his ankle during the preseason and might begin the regular season on the injured list.

## Dotson ruled incompetent to stand trial in murder case

**WACO, Texas** — The former Baylor basketball player charged with murdering a teammate was ruled incompetent to stand trial on Thursday.

Carlton Dotson, 22, was sent by District Judge George Allen to a state mental hospital for up to four months, after which his competence will be re-evaluated.

Dotson could get life in prison if convicted of shooting Patrick Denberry, who was missing for about six weeks before his body was found in 2003 in a field near Baylor's Waco campus.

## Agassi cruises to semis in Stockholm

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden** — Top-seeded Andre Agassi won his third straight-set match in a row, advancing to the semifinals of the Stockholm Open on Friday.

The American veteran, who lost in the quarterfinals in 1989 and 1994 at the Globe Arena across town, beat Spain's Fernando Verdasco 7-6 (4), 6-2 on the Royal Tennis Hall's fast Plexipave court.

Agassi will play Agassi in Saturday's semifinals.

## Top-ranked Federer pulls out of Paris Masters

**PARIS** — Roger Federer will miss next week's Paris Masters with a torn left thigh, making Andy Roddick the tournament's No. 1-seeded player.

Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 2003 French Open champion, and Guillermo Coria, this year's runner-up at Roland Garros, also pulled out of Friday.

## Next year's Tour de France route tougher for Armstrong

**PARIS** — The 2005 Tour de France might give other riders their best chance to test Lance Armstrong, if he goes for a seventh straight title.

Once again, unveiled the 2005 Tour route, which runs from July 2-24, passes through Germany and features 21 stages over 2,222 miles.

The mountaintop finishes are less intense and the time trials shorter, possibly cutting into Armstrong's strengths.

# As NASCAR gets back to business, Busch leads the chase for the Cup

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

**HAMPTON, Ga.** — The NASCAR family paused for a few days to mourn.

Now it's back to business.

The seventh stop NASCAR's championship chase is Atlanta Motor Speedway, where Kurt Busch will try to extend his lead over Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr. in Sunday's Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500.

Not that it's business as usual. The sport was rocked last Sunday by the plane crash that killed the son, brother and twin nieces of prominent car owner Rick Hendrick. They were traveling to the race in Martinsville, Va., and the team plane slammed into the side of a mountain.

All 10 people aboard were killed, including the general manager of Hendrick Motorsports, the team's chief engine builder,

## SPORTS



Coming in Monday's edition:  
A 16-page preview  
of the 2004-05 NBA season

## Repeat business

World Series champs face tough personnel decisions

BY HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The line at the souvenir store curved around the corner, about the length of a Mark Bellhorn homer into Pesky's Pole.

Thousands of fans yearned to wear the words "Boston Red Sox" and "World Series Champions" on the same shirt. One of them wasn't sure what he wanted on the back.

"If I knew Varitek would stay, I'd get his authentic jersey, so maybe I'll get Schilling or Ortiz instead," said Chris McDevitt, a 30-year-old accountant who once worked in concessions at Fenway Park.

On Thursday, smiling customers with long shopping lists didn't seem to mind they had slept too little after the Red Sox won the World Series for the first time since 1918, finishing a sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday night. The fans also didn't mind standing in line just across narrow Yawkey Way from the stadium where the messageboard read: "Welcome Home 2004 World Champions."

But when the euphoria and disbelief subsided, they'll wonder who will play on the team as it tries to defend the title.

David Ortiz is signed through 2006, Curt Schilling through 2007 and Manny Ramirez through 2008.

But Pedro Martinez, Derek Lowe and Jason Varitek can become free agents along with 15 less valuable players.

General manager Theo Epstein will have to prove himself again and team owner John Henry will have to come up with the money. This year's payroll of \$128 million was second only to the New York Yankees' \$186 million.

With the World Series victory, a bonus in Schilling's contract increases his 2005 salary from \$12.5 million to \$14.5 million and guarantees his 2007 club option at \$13 million.

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One player the Red Sox won't have to worry about right away is David Ortiz, who is signed through 2006.



No. 22 Hokies rally in fourth quarter to sting Yellow Jackets

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Let the bidding begin: 65 players to enter baseball's free-agent market

Page 41

Potential losses: Four who could leave via free agency



**Derek Lowe:** Went 14-12 with a 5.42 ERA during the regular season, but was the winning pitcher in the division series, ALCS and World Series clinchers. His play-off performance means he'll get a raise, in Boston or elsewhere.



**Orlando Cabrera:** Came to the Red Sox from the Expos in the Nomar Garciaparra trade and stood out at shortstop. The potential free agent didn't make an error in 14 postseason games, and hit safely in 10 straight.



**Pedro Martinez:** Three-time Cy Young winner was 16-9 with a 3.90 ERA this season. His stats are off from his best seasons in Boston, meaning he'll probably have to take less than this year's \$17.5 million salary to return.



**Jason Varitek:** Like Lowe, is a client of agent Scott Boras, which means they likely will test the market. Thought by some to be Boston's MVP this season, the team is likely to make every reasonable effort to keep him.



Yokota captures sixth consecutive JFL, Kanto Plain championships

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Lewis, Owens focus on game, not controversy Page 45

